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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NMI SALUTES BIDEN

'An unmatched legacy, we're forever grateful'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The plot thickens in the 2024 presidential race with Democratic Party candidate and incumbent President Joseph Biden dropping out of the race just a few months from Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election.

AP/TOWNNEWS.COM CONTENT EXCHANGE
US President Joe Biden, left, has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris and she is the frontrunner to replace him.

Yesterday, Biden, in a letter addressed to the nation, officially announced that he will be ending his presidential re-election campaign and will be dropping out of the presidential race.

The Democratic Party of the NMI, for their part, has expressed their appreciation for the incumbent president stating his legacy is unmatched and adding that they believe him to be the most remarkable president in U.S. history.

"The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to express our deepest appreciation to President Joe Biden for his strong service and leadership. His dedication to our people and love for our nation. These past four years, President Biden set the stage with historic achievements and in our eyes

See LEGACY on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
Biden drops out of 2024 race. PAGE 10

15 rescued off Goat Island

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen persons were rescued from a distressed boat just 15 nautical miles west of Aguiguan Island or Goat Island last Sunday and the case is currently under investigation for possible human smuggling.

» Human smuggling probe initiated

According to reports from the Department of Public Safety, the rescue was conducted after DPS Boating Safety received reports of a distressed boat last Sunday afternoon.

Assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan Mayor's Office Operations Division removes a junk car in Dandan.

SMO collected 616 junk cars since 2023

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Mayor's Office has collected 616 junk cars since 2023, according to SMO Operations director Jojo Attao.

Attao said they started collecting junk cars in February or March of last year and since then they have established a system.

"When we started, we were just going to different places, picking up junk cars. Now we have a system, we go to this village we remove the junk cars, we move to

See SMO on Page 4

Flores: I don't believe more money should be given to PSS administration

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Flores

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) has vocally expressed that she does not believe that the Public School System's administration (or central office) should be given more funding when teachers and students are not benefitting from the funds.

Previously, the Office of the Governor appropriated an additional over $5 million to PSS for its fiscal year 2025 budget. At the expense of the additional funding, other agencies have experienced personnel cuts.

Flores, during PSS' budget

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INSIDE

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The Marianas Agupa Radio Talk Show is pleased to announce that there will be a forum for the NMI delegate seat and for the Third Senatorial District of Saipan seat.
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President Joe Biden lost the confidence of supporters in a 90-minute debate with former president Donald Trump, even if pride initially prompted him to override the fears of lawmakers, party elders and donors who were nudging him to drop out.
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LIFE & STYLE
"Twisters," standalone sequel to the 1996 hit, made $80.5 million in ticket sales from 4,151 theaters in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.
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Marianas Agupa' Talk Show
Magic 100.3 FM -KWAN

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Tinian-based Star Marianas is the CNMI's sole inter-island carrier.

CPA gives SMA 30 days to pay over $1M in fees

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has sent Star Marianas Airline a letter giving the airlines 30 days to pay an overdue balance of over $1 million in airport fees.

Last week, CPA executive director Leo B. Tudela, in a letter addressed to SMA president Shaun Christian, demanded that SMA address its outstanding debt of $1,294,497.16 in airport fees for the airports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from Oct. 1, 2022, to May 2024.

Tudela, in his letter, is demanding that Star Marianas make a payment on its delinquent accounts in the next 30 days.

SMA's outstanding balance for fees at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport amounts to $573,881.61 according to Tudela.

As for the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, SMA's outstanding balance is $286,987.98 and for the Benjamin Taisakan Manglona International Airport on Rota, the airline owes CPA $433,627.57, Tudela detailed in his letter.

Saipan Tribune has reached out to SMA president Christian, but he has yet to issue an official statement on the letter.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, SMA and CPA has long been in dispute over unpaid airport fees dating back to 2014.

Back in January 2022, SMA sent out an informal complaint to the Federal Aviation Administration accusing CPA of unilaterally imposing new rates in October 2021 and that CPA allegedly violated its federal obligation to impose reasonable rates and charges pursuant to FAA policy regarding airport rates and charges.

According to a letter issued by FAA's Brian Armstrong to SMA president Shaun Christian, the FAA determined that CPA did not violate its grant obligations as it relates to reasonableness of the fees CPA charges.

Specifically, the FAA found that there is no federal regulation requiring any single approach to rate setting other than that the methodology be applied consistently to similarly situated aeronautical users and conforms to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Policy regarding airport rates and charges.

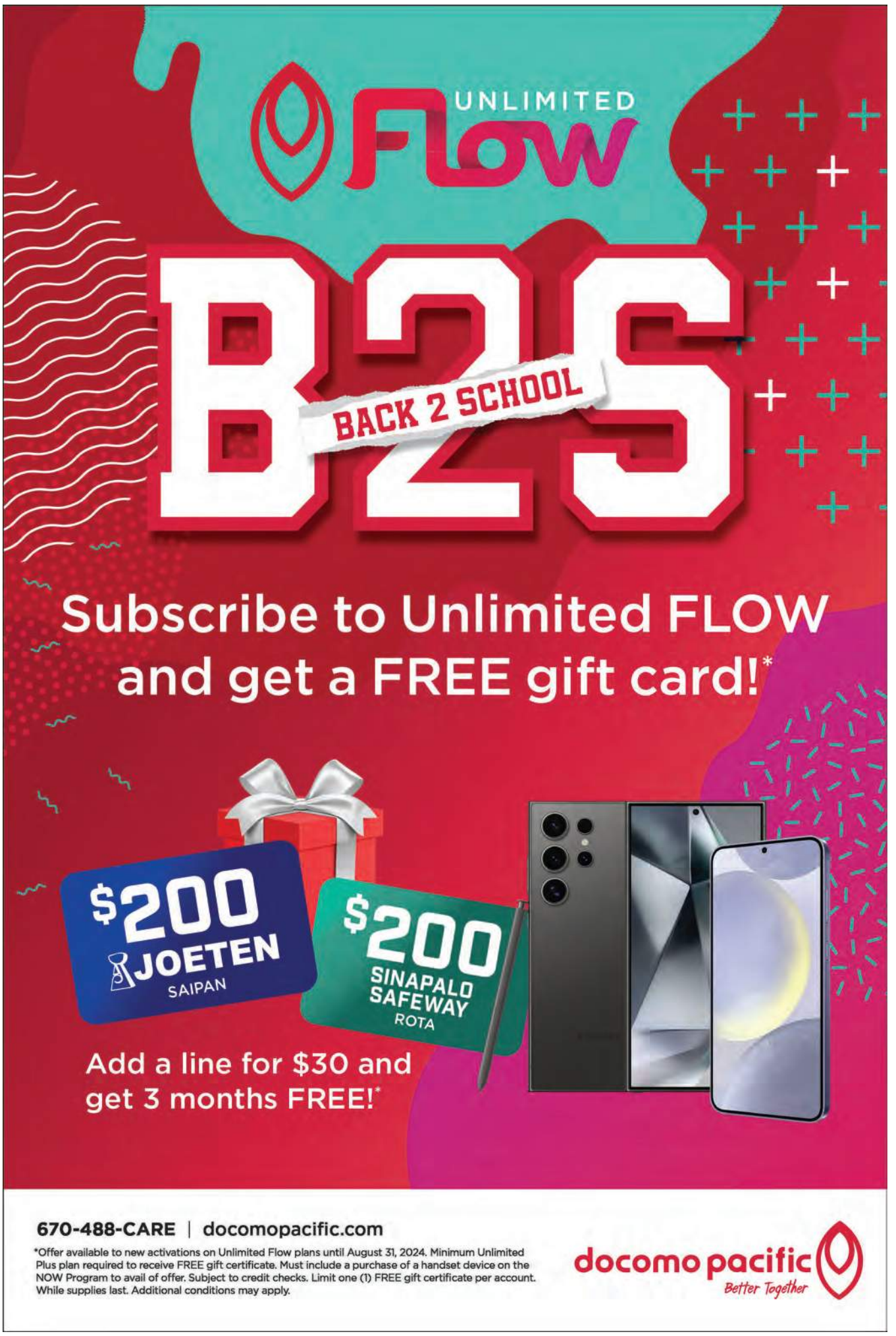
Additionally, Armstrong said, the policy only states that airline rates and fees may not unjustly discriminate against aeronautical users.

Because of these findings, SMA was instructed to resolve all delinquent accounts with CPA and to pay all its past due fees.

According to data acquired from the CPA, as of Jan. 31, 2023, SMA owes CPA $3,179,150.64 in fees.

In addition, SMA also owes CPA $1,579,953.35 in interest, bringing the overall total balance to $4,759,103.99.

SMA and CPA are also currently in a legal battle dating back to 2022 regarding a breach in SMA and CPA's airline use agreement that both parties entered into in April 2009 by failing to adjust fees and charges based on CPA's actual cost of services provided to SMA.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Better Together

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CHCC unaffected by global IT outage

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said it was unaffected by CrowdStrike's global IT outage last weekend. CHCC said the only impacted cloud software it uses, Dragon Dictation, has acknowledged the issue. Despite this, CHCC said its operations continue to run smoothly. ***(PR)***

Emergency power outage on Feeder 4

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said Feeder 4 went offline yesterday at 2:19pm, affecting Sadog Tasi, Capitol Hill, Mt. Tapochau, As Teo, Kagman, and portions of Papago. Power was restored at 2:45pm and CUC apologizes for the inconvenience the power interruption caused.

For updates, please call CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333. For emergencies, contact CUC's Customer Service at (670) 664-4282 and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

DFEMS lifts open burning suspension

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has lifted its suspension of its open burning notice and the Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation will now again reinstate the issuance of burning permits.

In April of 2024, DFEMS informed the general public that the National Weather Services reported that drought conditions in the Marianas have intensified to D-3 conditions (extreme drought) for all islands in the CNMI, necessitating the suspension of burning permits until further notice.

For more information about the lifting of the open burning suspension, don't hesitate to get in touch with the DFEMS-DFPAI office at (670) 664-9178 or email at dfpai@dfem-scnmi.com. ***(PR)***

CUC's electric pre-pay system temporarily down

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last Friday informed the general public that its electric pre-pay system went offline due to technical difficulties that the provider experienced.

CUC said its electric pre-pay system went offline at 3:30pm but was up and running again by 8pm. No service was interrupted or affected other than customers couldn't buy to add load to their accounts during that period. However, CUC said no disconnects should occur during the offline period..

For more information, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282, visit their website, and visit their Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

MLSC closed July 22-26

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be closed from Monday, July 22, 2024, through Friday, July 26, 2024, for staff development. MLSC will not be available for any services during this time. MLSC will resume regular business hours on Monday, July 29, 2024. MLSC apologizes for the inconvenience. ***(PR)***

Villanueva's trial date now in question

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The trial date for Shayne Blanco Villanueva's contempt case is now in question, as assistant attorney general James Kingman filed a request for an alternate trial date.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday from court documents, that prosecuting attorney Kingman filed a request for slight date alterations on July 18, 2024.

According to court files, Kingman stated that he had filed a notice as early as June 4, 2024, that he will be off-island from Sept. 1 to Oct. 5, 2024.

The trial date was originally set for Sept. 24, 2024.

Villanueva's defense attorney Keith Chambers filed their opposition for the request stating, "The court can take judicial notice of the fact that the trial for this matter has been set since April 4, 2024, as seen in the court's minute order issued on that day. Therefore, the Office of the Attorney General in general, and AAG James Kingman in particular, knew or should have known of the Sept. 24, 2024 trial date 61 days before Mr. Kingman filed his off-island notice on June 4, 2024."

Chambers added, "Mr. Villanueva opposes moving the trial date forward to August because such an action would materially interfere with both Mr. Villanueva's preparation for trial and several of the deadlines that the court set in the pretrial order."

Chambers said "Mr. Villanueva opposes moving the trial to October or any other date because Mr. Villanueva is asserting his right to a speedy trial and the trial date was known or should have been known by the prosecution when Mr. Kingman submitted his off-island request."

In his filing, Kingman proposed alternative dates, also before he leaves, saying about the trial, "The Commonwealth does not need more time. It can be tried the last week of August before I am off-island, or as soon as the week of Oct. 11 when I return. I do not think that it should take more than a day."

Kingman's declaration filed also on July 18, 2024, shared that the travel was for an important family matter, a visi-

See TRIAL on Page 4

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Sawatdee Nuat Thai Massage, LLC
THE POSITION: Masseuse
NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 2
JOB DESCRIPTION: Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: None
WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as a Masseuse.
JOB LOCATION: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

APORNPHAN TAPWAN RODJARUN
Manager
SAWATDEE NUAT THAI MASSAGE, LLC

Office Address: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 139, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: sawatdeenuathai@gmail.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-8424; (670) 285-8227

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LEGACY

From page 1

is the most remarkable President in our history. We thank him for his contributions and improvements to the quality of life for the people of this great Commonwealth. An unmatched legacy and we are forever grateful," said the party.

The local Democratic Party's NMI Delegate candidate, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) has also spoken about Biden's decision stating that the incumbent president has demonstrated the type of selflessness that the people look for in true leaders.

"His decision not to seek a second presidential term puts the needs of our nation first. This decision must have been very difficult for President Biden and his family, but I believe that he chose this path with America's best interests in mind," Propst said.

Propst notes that the CNMI, thanks to President Biden's vital role and strong working relationship with current CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP), has received substantial amounts of federal assistance despite the deeply divided United States Congress

"We cannot forget the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, in which the CNMI received $481,876,521.00, intended for COVID-19 economic relief assistance to the CNMI. I only wish the previous administration had used it more wisely and less corruptly," he said.

Propst adds with President Biden's decision, he hopes to see an end to the cruel political rhetoric and the crude personal attacks directed at President Biden recently for something that was beyond his control—aging.

"We live in islands and are raised in cultures where respect for our elders is ingrained in us. We look to our elders for their wisdom. We love them and take care of them as they grow older just as they took care of us when we were younger. It is evident President Biden isn't as fast as he used to be, that he fumbles his words at times, or mixes up names…none of it intentional. I saw my dad go through this. At times he would get things mixed up. If we are lucky enough to have them around, we will all experience this with our elders as they grow older, but we are raised to never belittle or to disrespect them for it. And one day, if we live long enough, we will be there too, and we hope and pray that our loved ones who will care for us will have love, patience, and tolerance for us. And why do I write or care about this? Because aging is a natural process, while 'ageism' is not. Ageism refers to the stereotypes, discrimination, and prejudice toward others based on age. There is no excuse for it. Not even in politics," he said.

"In the coming months as President Biden finishes out his term, I wish him the very best. Many of his accomplishments are ignored and dismissed quickly, because of divisive politics, but we should not forget all the good that he has done for the CNMI and for our nation as a whole. Thank you, President Joe Biden, and God bless you and your family," he adds.

Saipan Tribune has reached out to other members of the Democratic Party of the NMI but have yet to receive a response.

According to President Joe Biden's letter, he states the over the past three and a half years, America has made great progress as a nation.

"Today, America has the strongest economy in the world. We've made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We've provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SMO

From page 1

the next village, we remove those junk cars," he said.

He also explained the process of removing junk cars wherein an affidavit has to be filled out.

"We'll ask the owners if they still want the car, and if not, they got to fill out an affidavit plus a request form for us to remove. The affidavit assures us that we won't get sued, or you know, something like that because the person might be off-island...now if they want (for it to be removed), they have to sign the affidavit assuring us that we're not going to be liable for that."

He added that they coordinate with the CNMI Zoning Board because the agency is in charge of tagging the junk cars and SMO then picks them up.

"You know some cars have been tagged in As Matuis, but since we decided to start going from village to village, that's when we start removing junk cars. We also have a call from Kagman and I told them to be patient because we'll get there eventually. It's just taking us a little time," said Attao.

The Operations Division of the Saipan Mayor's Office is working on the vision of Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho of a safe community, a clean island, and clean villages. Attao's department is in charge of not only removing junk cars, but also home junk. The home junk referred to are broken ice boxes, broken laundry machines, refrigerators, metal, etc.

"We started in Chalan Kanoa, and then we moved to Susupe, San Antonio, Afetnas, Kobblerville, As Gonno, Dandan (upper and lower), and now we are in San Vicente. So, when you say cleanup, we go around knocking on everybody's houses, and then let them know that we are from the mayor's office, and we're here to pick up whatever you don't want in your area."

Upon the removal of the junk either the car or home, it will be dumped down the Marpi landfill or at the transfer station, but if metals are recovered, Operations brings it to the recycling center.

Attao also said when asked what village has the most junk cars, "Some villages are smaller, which used to have auto shops, so when you have auto shops, there's a lot of junk cars... So, I really can't base on that. I cannot compare Susupe because that's a big village. But there are a lot of junk cars in Susupe, but I don't have the breakdown for you because I don't want people to think that it's the dirtiest village because it is not right, so percentage wise I think they're pretty much even. San Vicente has the least right now."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FLORES

From page 1

hearing before the House Standing Committee on Way and Means, passionately expressed that she doesn't believe this is fair if students and teachers are not benefitting from it, instead PSS' administration is.

"I believe that the (additional) $5 million that was allocated under the governor's budget proposal should be addressed, specifically how that money is going to be distributed. I do not believe that any more money should be given to the central office for directors when money should be given to the students and the teachers at the first level, as they enter the school system because this would be an injustice to continue to give the central office millions of dollars when they only provide direct direction, but the people who actually do the work are in the school with the students," she said.

Flores said legislators should emphasize the importance of focusing on students' needs and maintaining accountability in all aspects of the administration of the PSS and its funding.

"There are a wide range of topics related to funding PSS, the administration, and accountability in educational organization. It touches upon issues such as the impact on consistent attendance as training sessions, funding for legal settlements and lawsuits, the use and distribution of federal funds, accountability in the use of funds for travel and training, grants, oversite, allocation of salaries, use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funds, travel policies, classroom vs. non-classroom expenses, and the intention of professional and educational organizations," she said.

Specifically, Flores expressed PSS should be held accountable for the use of funds in regard to travel for training for 16 directors who are not even tasked with educating students.

"It is worth considering, whether the same individuals that consistently attend training sessions as this could impact the effectiveness and training and the allocation of services. I feel there is an injustice in terms of how many people travel every single time, every single year and I have no data to tell the public, the students, or the parents if the training attended was effective. It is crucial to understand that the use of federal funds and their explicit use in classroom instruction is addressed. We must hold ourselves accountable to ensure equity in their distribution," she said.

RESCUED

From page 1

Manacop said DPS Tinian received a report of a distress vessel south of Goat Island.

Officers from DPS Tinian then initially launched their rescue boat, but had later returned to Tinian due to bad weather conditions that made visibility limited.

At around 1:30pm, DPS Saipan launched its Impact rescue vessel, but had also faced challenges in locating the distress vessel due to weather conditions.

"With coordinated search and response efforts that included the U.S. Navy, a USN-HSC 25 spotted the distress vessel and identified two male occupants on board who required medical assistance. Both persons were transported to the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam and treated. The U.S. Navy vessel and tug boat *Triron* later located the distressed vessel and transferred two males and 11 females onboard. They were then transported to Charlie Dock, Saipan," said Manacop.

DPS later learned that of the 15 occupants, three local males were identified as being the captain with two deck hand assistants. The other occupants were all Chinese nationals—one male and 11 females.

Manacop said that upon arrival at Charlie Dock, at around 5am last Sunday, the 13 individuals were transferred to the custody of personnel from the U.S. Homeland Security Investigation for possible violations of human smuggling.

The rescue from the 28-foot vessel was a combined effort of the U.S. Navy, good Samaritans from Cabras Marine Corp., DPS Saipan Boating Safety, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Lt. Chelsea Garcia, meanwhile, said the search and rescue mission was a coordinated effort by multiple agencies.

"We thank all partners involved in this critical search effort, including Saipan DPS, DPS Tinian, and the crews of U.S. Navy's HSC-25, MSC's Jack Lummus, and Cabras's Triton. Their collective efforts are invaluable in our mission to locate and rescue missing boaters. The hoist capable helicopter crew and local good Samaritans aboard the other vessels were vital to affecting a timely response and saving lives in this case," she said.

She went on to say Sunday's incident was a cautionary tale of overloading vessels.

"We urge all mariners to avoid overloading their vessels and to always check weather conditions before setting out. These transits are extremely dangerous and put lives at significant risk. This is the third significant rescue of this type we've effected between Guam and the CNMI since January."

Garcia, however, didn't want to comment on the human smuggling issue.

"While this case appears to involve the transit of foreign nationals from the CNMI, we cannot comment further on the ongoing law enforcement investigation."

TRIAL

From page 3

tation of longtime friends. and more importantly medical treatment not available on island.

In his declaration, Kingman stated "I was brought to the CNMI as a special prosecutor for a three-month contract starting in March 2023. My trip was extended after a new judge on that case was appointed and opposing counsel filed a flurry of motions. The judge refused to rule or set a trial. When I lost my mainland job and health insurance because of their delays, and the judge froze further work on that case while I waited, I was hired as an assistant attorney general to work on the myriad other corruption cases facing the Commonwealth," he said. "Since then, I have left the CNMI one time, for a training I have been making myself as available for proceedings, hearings, and trials as possible."

Kingman went on to justify his request for a new trial date.

"At all stages of this and other prosecutions, I have extended every accommodation and professional respect to opposing counsel and permitted all possible steps for criminal defendants. There has never at any point been any mutual consideration given to me or my office by any member of the bar here," said Kingman. "My own wedding was cancelled, since I concluded that the trials would be set for those dates and not moved. I have missed three weddings since I have been here, including those of close family members. I have taken no vacation or personal leave of any kind."

He said his scheduled travel in September is for two weddings, one for his partner's sister in Texas and the other for close, lifelong friends in Mexico, and the aforementioned medical treatment.

"I notified the defense of my off-island notice and they refuse to accommodate this unbelievably basic request, to no one's surprise," he added. "The defense in this case originally said that it would be October before they could be ready for the trial."

The two parties are expected to appear before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja this morning at 9am for pretrial motions, as of now it is unclear if the trial date will be confirmed at the hearing.

Villanueva's trial is with regards to the contempt charge filed against him by the Office of the Attorney General for refusing to answer questions during legislative investigation on the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together grant program.

UOG Extension invites dog owners to free canine care workshop

Island residents and dog owners are invited to a Companion Animal Welfare Workshop to learn about basic home grooming, canine nutrition, parasite prevention, and other essential care for dogs. The event is free to attend and will be offered three times the week of July 22 at different locations on island.

"Dogs are excellent companions. However, they can't tell us what they need, so it is our responsibility to understand and learn how to take good care of them and provide what they need," said Dr. Jeng-Hung Liu, animal scientist with University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach. "This workshop is a unique opportunity for dog owners, prospective dog owners, and anyone who works with dogs to hear from animal experts on how to best care for them."

UOG is hosting the workshop along with the Department of Veterinary Medicine from National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan, Guam Animals in Need, and Happy Pooch Groom & Board with sponsorship from the Jackson Yang Scholarship. Presentations from each organization will be followed by a Q&A session.

Several visiting faculty veterinarians from NCHU will simultaneously be on island through UOG assisting with the Spay & Neuter Island Pets program clinic from July 23 to Aug. 1 at the Hågat Mayor's Office Community Center. Appointments can be made at www.snipclinicguam.com.

Workshop Schedule:

■ Tuesday, July 23
5:30pm-7:30pm
Sinajana Mayor's Office (117A Chalan Guma Yu'us)
No registration required

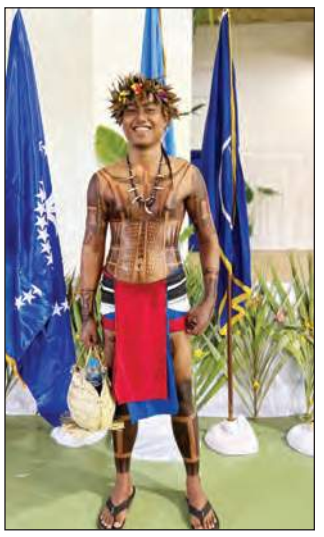
■ Wednesday, July 24
5:30pm-7:30pm
Yigo Research & Education Center/Triton Farm (Chalan Estudia off of Wusstig Road, Yigo)

Register to attend: Email ghall@triton.uog.edu or call (671) 735-2062. ***(PR)***

Yap's unique culture to be featured at 3rd Micronesia Expo in Chuuk

YAP, FSM—The distinctive culture and traditions of Yap will be on display at the upcoming 3rd Micronesia Expo in Chuuk. This annual Expo will run from July 22-26, 2024, and is designed celebrate the rich culture and heritage of all states that comprise the Federated States of Micronesia. The Yap Visitors Bureau is spearheading coordination activities and participation in the Expo and a strong delegation of 40 people will be traveling to Chuuk soon to represent Yap.

Yapese cultural performances and demonstrations will take place throughout the Expo, with the afternoon of July 24 at the Cultural Village venue being designated Yap Day. During this period attendees will be treated to traditional dances or churus by the dance group from Rumung. Members from the Yapese women's groups NIWA and YWA, and The Tropical Touch Souvenir Shop will showcase and sell Yapese handicrafts, as well as locally produced food and drink items. They will also provide live demonstrations on weaving and craft making,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Traditional Yapese tattoos on display from the 2023 Micronesia Expo in Kosrae.

and traditional Yapese tattoo designs and tattooing will be highlighted.

For further information on Micronesia Expo 2024 in Chuuk and Yap's participation, follow the Yap Visitors Bureau's Facebook page.

Yap is an island in the Federated States of Micronesia, in the Pacific Ocean that is ringed by spectacular coral reefs and famous for its scuba diving with giant manta rays, sharks and mandarin fish. Other key activities on the island include kayaking, hiking, deep-sea fishing and exploring the many World War II historical sites. Yap is also uniquely famous for its stone money (huge disks of stone, which are still used today in major transactions), strong traditional culture and way of life, and welcoming residents. A short flight away from Guam or Palau, this Pacific gem is one of the tourism industry's best kept secrets. For more information: www.visityap.com. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONNA P. MIAH
Petitioner,
vs.
JULHAS MIAH
Respondent,

] FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0255
] **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8010 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.
Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDE, Member
CHARLENE M. LIZAMA, Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS [1]

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
a. Office Lease Agreement – Binadu Realty

IV. NEW BUSINESS
a. Reorganization
b. Travel Policy
c. ED Recommendation No. 2024-08

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION [2]

VI. ADJOURNMENT

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

It is difficult to tell a sea turtle's gender until it reaches sexual maturity. Fully mature male sea turles develop long tails and long curves claws on their front flippers.
When a female sea turtle is mature enough to reproduce her tail stays short. After mating, she returns to the beach she was born at to lay her eggs. Females can lay anywhere between 65-200 eggs at one time
CNMI SEA TURTLE ID
MALE VS FEMALE
males have long tails
longer curved claws on front flippers
females have short tails
To report turtle tracks, nests, distressed turtles, or illegal harvesting activities call the following:
Sea Turtle Hotline (670) 287-8537
DFW Enforcement (670) 287-1126
or reach out to us on social media
FUN FACT:
The temperature of the sand will determine if a the hatchling will be male or female. If the sand is warmer, there will be more females. If the sand is cooler then there will be more males.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 146

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vance seals the arrival of big-government conservatism

Americans had reason to fear for the future even before the attempted assassination of Donald Trump. One hopes this enormity, together with respect for its innocent victims, will urge elected leaders to keep the risk of instability and political violence front of mind. In particular, campaigns need to talk less about the evil of their opponents and think harder about policy.

Policy did indeed come up at the Republican Party's national convention this week, but not in a good way. Energized by the weekend's outrage, Republicans celebrated both a new policy platform and the choice of Senator JD Vance as the former president's running mate.

The choices go together all too well. Republicans are shifting toward a new kind of inward-looking big-government conservatism—"national conservatism," as its advocates prefer. Unless something changes, this benighted program's electoral prospects look good.

Ronald Reagan's Republican Party stood for market liberalism and strong national defense. The Trump administration lacked such guiding principles, and relied instead on the president's certainty that he knew best. He settled on protectionism, unfunded tax cuts with enormous deficits, chauvinistic strutting and a carelessly transactional approach to U.S. alliances. To its shame, the old Republican Party looked on impotently, hoping this would pass.

It didn't, and the emerging new party has no reservations. The choice of Vance for vice president underlines the point. Some plausible deputies might've tried to restrain Trump's illiberal and narrowly nationalist instincts. Vance, henceforth Trump's presumed successor, seems more likely to fuel them.

He agrees with Trump that U.S. aid to Ukraine should be scaled down and NATO has been allowed to lean too heavily on U.S. support: "No, I don't think that we should pull out of NATO, and no, I don't think that we should abandon Europe," he has said. "But yes, I think that we should pivot." This undermines the alliance that the old Republican Party recognized as vital for national security.

Trump, Vance and the new platform are also aligned on domestic policy: Seal the border and undertake the largest deportation program in American history. Stop outsourcing and make the U.S. a manufacturing superpower. Build infrastructure. Rebuild U.S. cities ("making them safe, clean and beautiful again"). Rule out entitlement reform and cut workers' taxes. Whether Trump sees the contradictions is debatable. Vance does, and he embraces them nonetheless.

A former Never Trumper, Vance has moved to and fro on policy as electoral math has dictated, but he seems genuinely suspicious of commerce and private enterprise. He has blamed worsening fiscal shortfalls on trade ("we shipped millions of good jobs to China and other countries") and favors higher taxes on the companies responsible. He says immigration suppresses wages. (It doesn't.)

No fan of big tech, he commends the Federal Trade Com-

See VANCE on Page 7

CONVINCING JOE TO QUIT
HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?
AS THE MAN WHO GOT TRUMP OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE MAN WHO LET HIM BACK IN?
REPLACEMENT LIST
KIRK
©2024DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
email: MattersWorkSA@gmail.com

What's present, and absent, in that hugely influential Trump rally photo

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

And suddenly it was everywhere.

At the July 13 Trump campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, shots rang out, an assassin's bullet grazed the right ear of former U.S. President Donald Trump and photographers covering the event captured what they could of the chaotic aftermath.

Secret Service agents hustled a stunned Trump onto the outdoor stage floor, shielding him from what might follow. Then, after the "shooter down" transmission, up came the candidate, back on his feet, fist in the air, American flag behind him, clear blue sky above it all. Barely heard over the commotion, he called out "fight!" three times, giving his supporters and the cameras something to remember.

Associated Press photojournalist Evan Vucci's image of that moment hit the news wires. Within hours, minutes, even, a confluence of political agreement emerged across right, left and center. This photo, that defiance, that flag and that fist in the air could cement the election's outcome.

News images made under terrifying circumstances enter the world, and while the photographer may have a hunch about how they'll be used for political or commercial purposes later, it's too late. It's out of the bag. But what transforms some photos into icons — we'll use that word once, and cautiously, as with any "iconic"-adjacent word—while more complex images from the same, recent, tragic event take a back seat?

What can we find in other photographs made under extreme pressure that day, or other days in our history, Sept. 11, 2001, included, revealing different light and shadows of the same story?

I talked with Tribune senior visual editor Marianne Mather, who, like many newspaper photo editors Saturday, chose Vucci's Trump rally photo for prominent online and print display. She has worked in Chicago as both photojournalist and photo editor. "When I saw that image," she told me, "I knew it could change the course of the election. But that's out of our hands."

Our conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Why that photo above the others?

A: Action, reaction, motion and emotion—those are the four elements you want in a photo. The photos that came out of what happened at the rally have all four. They're so impactful. But the fist pump into the air is the photo.

Q: Why?

A: It shows so much of what we, as Americans, prize, even with the blood dripping down Trump's face. He's down, but he gets up again. As a culture, we value these things. It's an affirming image. Regardless of how it'll be used by other people, for whatever purposes, it's a solid, well-shot news photo.

Q: Is the photo itself inescapably political, do you think?

A: Well, yes and no. The event was inescapably political. It was a Trump rally, so we're already in a political arena. As a photo editor, I'm always thinking: If my mother wasn't there, what would I show her so that she understood what happened? That's what we're trying to do. Can images become politicized by others later? Yes. They can, and they will.

Q: Vucci's photograph relates to another massively popular image: "Raising the Flag at Ground Zero," taken by Thomas E. Franklin, who was a staff photographer at The Record. Resilience, framed by tragedy.

A: It speaks to what Americans love most about our country, I think. Getting back up in the fight, in the face of adversity. The firefighters, hit so hard that day, raising the flag up. It's a moment in time, showing what America is made of.

Q: That's how millions of people seem to be interpreting last weekend's signature image.

A: Right. When you have a photo capturing a mood or a feeling of much of the entire country, that's hard to deny. But we do have to remember this: It's just one moment. There are other moments, captured before and after that one. Anna Monkeymaker's photo (for Getty) is just remarkable, showing former President Trump as photographed through the legs of a Secret Service man. They're all over him, trying to protect him. It's a quieter moment — a behind-the-scenes look that's pure storytelling. But this photo will never resonate as much with people because it doesn't show what we love to see.

Q: It's a really complex and ambiguous image, but it still manages to humanize the person dominating it, from an alarmingly close perspective.

A: I agree. A really great photo. That private moment, what Anna shot, is a quiet image. Evan's is louder, and people resonate more easily with louder.

Q: You could say the same about a less well-known photograph taken at Ground Zero on 9/11, Lori Grinker's "The Firemen and the Flag." In a 2022 episode of the PBS series "The Bigger Picture," Fred Ritchin, dean emeritus of the International Center of Photography, says that the best-known Sept. 11 photo, Franklin's, was "like a victory—'We won!' It's OK. We'll be OK." In Grinker's photo, the perspective's higher, gazing down on the firefighters, and you see more of the devastation. Ritchin calls it "a probing interrogation of the event. But not an uplifting image."

A: Also, the flag's already raised in that photo, which is truly beautiful. It's so well-composed. What you don't get is the action of doing something, the actual raising of the flag, the way Franklin's photo does. All the symbolic elements of the Sept. 11 photo

See RALLY on Page 7

Why chronic diseases are even scarier than bird flu

By HEATHER MOORE
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Heather Moore is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation

So far, the U.S. has gotten off relatively easy when it comes to bird flu. Humans have, at least. Although the virus has propagated across the nation—infecting countless farmed animals (leading to the cruel, systematic killing of nearly 100 million birds), spreading to wildlife and killing them, sickening farm workers, affecting egg prices and contaminating cow's milk—it hasn't yet been fatal for humans in this country.

The same can't be said of heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases that are primarily caused by consuming birds and their eggs, cow's milk and other animal-derived substances.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic diseases are the leading cause of illness, disability and death in the U.S. Six out of 10 adults in this country have been diagnosed with one of these conditions, and four out of 10 suffer from two or more of them.

These deadly ailments are responsible for 90% of the nation's annual $4.5 trillion in health care costs, and they come at great personal expense to those they afflict: pain, anxiety, reduced quality of life and lives that may be cut short by years or decades.

As with preventing bird flu and other zoonotic diseases—which cause 2.5 billion cases of human illness and 2.7 million human deaths worldwide every year—the best way to avoid many chronic diseases is to stop raising, killing and eating animals.

Animal-based foods, which are high in cholesterol, saturated fat and potentially deadly bacteria, have no redeeming value. Not only are they linked to many common chronic diseases, the animals who are exploited to produce them are also forced to endure lives of abject misery followed by terrifying, painful deaths. And study after study has shown that meat, eggs and dairy are driving the climate catastrophe — and just about every other environmental crisis, too.

I'm relieved that I went vegan 32 years ago after learning from PETA materials that farm workers cut chickens' and turkeys' throats while they're still conscious, chop off piglets' tails and testicles without giving them pain relievers, suffocate or slice open fish and tear calves away from their mothers soon after birth, locking the males in small crates or pens before killing them for veal.

I've got enough to worry about because of a genetic condition. I don't want to jeopardize my health by eating meat and other harmful animal-based foods. Being vegan means I'm far less likely to suffer from high blood pressure, obesity and other health problems associated with consuming meat, eggs and dairy, which are risk factors for many chronic diseases.

It doesn't make sense to fork over lots of "cheddar" to treat conditions that could be prevented by simple changes in eating. According to researchers at Tufts University, subsidizing fruits and vegetables could help ward off millions of cases of chronic disease and save more than $100 billion in healthcare costs.

That's because produce and other vegan foods are cholesterol-free, low in saturated fat and calories and rich in fiber and other important nutrients. They strengthen the immune system and help fight chronic diseases. Studies show that vegans tend to be leaner than meat-eaters and vegetarians and enjoy a reduced risk of many life-threatening health conditions.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, going vegan can reduce one's risk of developing diabetes by 62%, their likelihood of being hospitalized for a heart attack by 33%, their risk of suffering from heart disease by 29% and their chance of developing cancer, in general, by 18%.

Chronically consuming animal-derived foods, on the other hand, is a prescription for illness. New research published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, to name just one example, suggests that men who consume lots of cow's milk are 25% more likely to develop prostate cancer. Experts advise them to switch to vegan options.

Vegan foods taste great and have never been linked to bird flu or other zoonotic diseases. Eating your veggies really can keep the doctor away and spare both you and other animals so much suffering. What are you waiting for?

Republicans' war on divorce is just Christian nationalism in disguise

By PATRICIA LOPEZ
Bloomberg Opinion

Patricia Lopez is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. She is a former member of the editorial board at the Minneapolis Star Tribune*, where she also worked as a senior political editor and reporter.*

No-fault divorce is an option available in all 50 states. But it might not be for long if Donald Trump wins a second term, further emboldening a surging Christian nationalist movement that has divorce reform in its sights.

Already, several GOP-led states, including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana, are moving to end or restrict the ability of a spouse to exit a marriage without establishing fault.

That's troubling enough. But what's even more troubling is that this effort is part of a larger strategy by extreme conservatives to return the U.S. to traditional patriarchy, where their religious views become laws that govern us all.

Sound impossible? Consider that women are already being forced to carry unwanted pregnancies to term in states around the country. Some states are moving to restrict access to reliable birth control. What happens when women are trapped in bad or abusive marriages because they're too hard to escape?

Trump, who is on his third marriage after getting divorced from two previous wives, hasn't taken a public position on eliminating no-fault divorce. But he is notorious for shifting his positions to suit his base and is loath to lose their support on any issue. And the list of other Republican luminaries who support such a change is lengthy.

Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, who was named Trump's running mate, has made his position clear, saying that no-fault laws allow people to "shift spouses like they change their underwear." House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana even preached a sermon on the laws in 2016, claiming they had turned the country into a "completely amoral society." Johnson and his wife have a "covenant marriage," a special type of union available in just a few states. It's based on the concept that marriage is a lifetime commitment and is exceptionally hard to dissolve.

Extreme conservatives argue that abortion, birth control and no-fault divorce have eroded the family, promoted promiscuity, hurt children, and, not incidentally, disfavored men. Society, they say, has suffered from loosening morals.

But whose morals?

No-fault divorce came into being when California Gov. Ronald Reagan, who had been divorced and remarried, signed the first no-fault divorce bill into law in 1969.

Before then, a woman seeking a divorce had to prove grounds for it—typically, adultery, extreme cruelty, or abandonment, and the bar was high. Leaving a marriage without a decree usually meant all joint assets were left behind. Women, in particular, often were left destitute and unable to remarry.

Marital rape wasn't considered illegal in many states until 1993. And while many states quickly followed California's example, it was a decades-long battle for some. Shockingly, it was 2010 when New York became the last state to offer a no-fault option. Even today, only 17 states are considered "true no-fault," meaning it is the only option.

Opponents of no-fault divorce argue that the laws are unconstitutional because they violate the 14th Amendment by depriving a spouse of due process. Beverly Willett, a leader of the Coalition for Divorce Reform, said in a recent article in the Guardian that in such cases, a person "has absolutely no recourse to say 'Wait a minute, I don't want to be divorced and I don't think there are grounds for divorce.'"

But that's precisely the issue. It's not uncommon for one spouse—often the one with greater assets—to prefer the status quo. The survival of the partner trapped in an abusive or exploitative marriage may depend on her ability to easily dissolve it and start over.

Statistics show that as states adopted no-fault laws, rates of domestic violence, suicide and murder within marriage fell. Domestic violence incidents dropped by an estimated 30%.

Regrettably, given the conservative 6-3 makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court, an argument such as Willett's might find sympathy. A court stacked with even more conservatives, as would likely happen in a second Trump term, could be even friendlier.

If the Supreme Court were to find no-fault divorce laws unconstitutional, it would represent an immediate and dramatic setback for women's rights. Divorce would become far more adversarial—and costly.

And women wouldn't be the only losers in this scenario. Men, too, could find themselves trapped in marriages with little way out.

Nevertheless, the sentiment for eliminating the practice is growing within a conservative movement now dominated by evangelicals.

Popular right-wing blogger Matt Walsh has for years called for a return to fault-based divorce. In a January 2023 social media post, he said, "I agree with men who say that the system has been rigged against them. Easiest way to fix this is to get rid of no-fault divorce completely and alimony in most cases."

The Nebraska Republican Party platform calls for fault-based divorce for any couple with children. The Texas Republican Party's platform goes further, calling for the elimination of no-fault divorce, stating that the state's "Family Code shall be completely rewritten with regards to No-Fault Divorce and Child Custody … We urge the Legislature to rescind unilateral no-fault divorce laws, to support covenant marriage …"

The overturning of Roe v. Wade should alert all of us to how little long-standing precedent means.

Christian nationalists are free to live according to their own values — that's their right. However, they aren't free to impose their values on everyone else. This is the U.S., where freedom of religion also includes freedom from religion. Women, in particular, have learned the hard way what happens when that standard gets eroded.

RALLY

From page 6

we remember, the men looking up, the raised faces, the action of doing something about what just happened—all that plays into a photo's meaning, and impact.

Q: One last question about the images of what happened last weekend. If no one image can tell the whole story, if you're picking which ones to publish, how do you make the call?

A: It's a struggle sometimes. When I edited the photos on July 13 I saw the image of the fist raised, and you just knew what would happen if you put it out into the world.

Evan Vucci and (photographer Doug Mills), they got the money shot, and they risked their lives to capture that moment of history. Those show part of the story, of what happened. But there are other photos. I hope people take the time to see those, too, to get a true, well-rounded picture of that day. Before and after the fist-pump.

VANCE

From page 6

mission's aggressive new approach to antitrust enforcement. Sean O'Brien, head of the Teamsters union, was granted a prime-time speaking slot at the convention; he praised Vance and a "growing group" of GOP officials for "listening to unions and standing up to corporations."

When it comes to market forces versus government intervention, of course, the populist right often agrees with the populist left. Thanks to the Republican realignment, voters lose twice over. The absence of small-government conservatives shifts economic policy unopposed toward ill-conceived interventions, and cultural friction between social liberals and social conservatives, which is hard to assuage, comes to dominate the country's politics.

America's political system requires a willingness to tolerate disagreement. Its prosperity requires close attention to the defects of populist economics. The new Republicans have other priorities.

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Marianas Agupa to host 2024 candidates' forum

The Marianas Agupa Radio Talk Show is pleased to announce that there will be a forum for the NMI delegate seat and for the Third Senatorial District of Saipan seat.

The candidates' forum for the NMI delegate seat is Aug. 10, 2024 from 10am to 11am and the virtual link will be sent to each candidate via email.

The candidates' forum for the Third Senatorial District of Saipan seat is scheduled for Aug. 17, 2024 from 10am to 11am and the virtual link will be sent to each candidate via email.

The candidates' forum for the First Senatorial District of Rota and the Second Senatorial District of Tinian seats will be announced at a later date.

During the forum, there will be three minutes given to each candidate for an opening statement; questions that will be asked are formulated by Northern Marianas College students and community members on current issues facing the Commonwealth today. A three-minute closing statement for each candidate will be given at the end of the forum.

Listen live at Magic 100.3 FM starting at 9am until 11am. Live streaming will be made available via https://s3.radio.co/s8f738b862/listen or through TuneIn radio at https://tunein.com/radio/KWAW-FM-1003-s43718/ or watch live on Marianas Agupa YouTube at youtube.com/channel/UC5heKROsqcSVHg5ztadbDHA?sub_confirmation=1 or Marianas Agupa Facebook live.

For more information on the candidates' forum, contact Glenn Manglona at gmanglona@gmail.com or (670) 287-4536. ***(PR)***

MANGO hosts community workshop 'What is a Nonprofit?' virtual event

In case you missed its last workshop, the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations is excited to announce an upcoming workshop on "What is a Nonprofit?" virtual event. This event is part of MANGO's ongoing efforts to engage and educate the community with key nonprofit initiatives that tie with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Event details:

- Date: July 29, 2024
- Time: 1:30pm-3pm
- Location: MANGO Zoom Room (Zoom link will be sent upon registering)

Calling all nonprofits, volunteer clubs, and interested community members! Join us to learn about the history of nonprofit organizations, how to create a nonprofit in the CNMI, benefits of SDGs in nonprofit work and much more. This workshop is free and open to all interested parties. For more information, call (670) 233-6200 or email info@mangocnmi.org. To register by July 27, 2024, please visit the registration link: https://forms.gle/xEmiyfUMkYR8MNej8.

MANGO is a coalition dedicated to the advocacy and advancement of community-driven initiatives in the Marianas. MANGO focuses on environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic development, working collaboratively with various stakeholders to achieve these goals.

For media inquiries, contact Shawna Babauta, Communications & Membership manager, at (670) 233-6200 or sbabauta@mangocnmi.org. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-016-24
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 23, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION **(IFB-016-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 30, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: 7/23/2024

Commonwealth Zoning Board
Special Meeting
Friday, July 26, 2024 | 10:00am
Zoning Conference Room • Chalan Laulau, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings:
1. None

C. New Business:
1. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 (as Amended) – For Board Review and Action

D. Executive Session

E. Announcements

F. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Works
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS SURROUNDING ROTA ROUTE 103 PROPOSED ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

APPLICANT : CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PROJECT : ROTA ROUTE 103 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The CNMI Department of Public Works submitted a Major Siting application to the Division of Coastal Resources Management for the improvement of Rota Route 103 on Rota, CNMI. The application was assigned CRM Permit No. RMS-2024-065.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

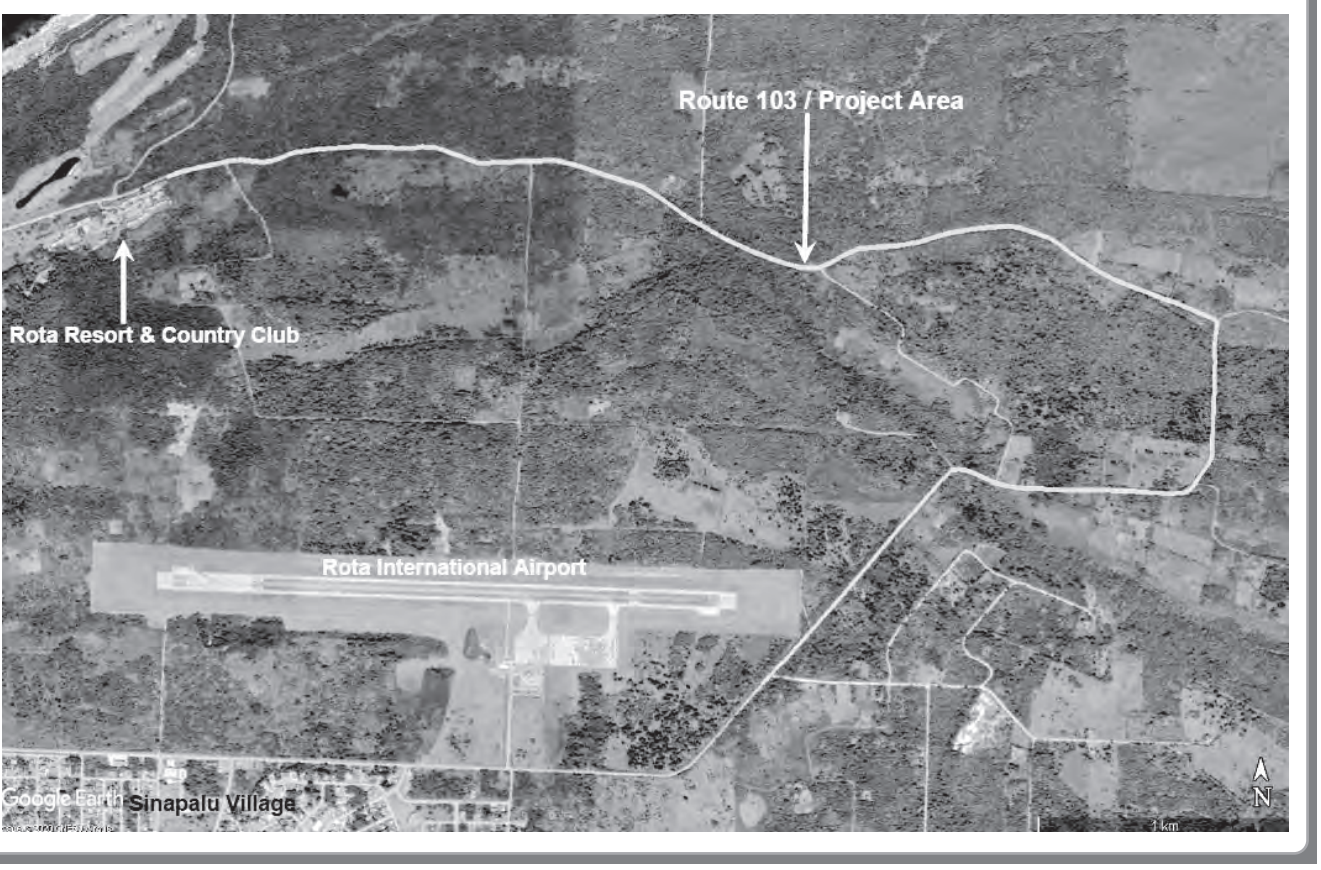
A 3.5-mile section of coral road (Route 103) with 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction and 4-foot-wide shoulders on each side of the traffic lanes (32 feet total width), would be paved and upgraded with safety measures. The new pavement will be flexible pavement consisting of hot asphaltic concrete pavement with a friction coarse layer, complete base, and sub-base fill materials. This type of pavement is known for its durability, rideability and long lifespan. The rehabilitation will also include drainage improvements to ensure proper water management and reduce the risk of flooding, installation of new traffic signs, and pavement markings.

Construction activities would include clearing and grubbing activities, road grading and bed preparation, and subsequent paving of the road. All proposed road improvements would lie within the Right-of-Way (ROW). Staging areas for during-construction activities are not known and will be determined by the selected contractor at a later date.

This notice is being issued to comply with NMIAC § 15-10-206(e)(2)(i) "Alternative Adjacent Property Owner Notification".

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like more information on the Rota Route 103 Road Improvement Project.



US Coast Guard rescues motor yacht crew 200 nautical miles west of Palau

SANTA RITA, Guam—The USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) crew is currently towing the motor yacht *Black Pearl 1*, located approximately 200 nautical miles west of the Republic of Palau on July 21, 2024, after responding to a distress call.

"Our primary concern is the safety of everyone aboard the *Black Pearl 1*. The swift response and ongoing efforts by the crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* exemplify our commitment to safeguarding lives at sea. We will continue to provide all necessary support to ensure the vessel and its crew reach safety," said Lt. Chelsea Garcia, the U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue mission coordinator for the case.

The 11-person yacht crew, who reported a locked rudder and flooding in the bilge, is being assisted by the *Oliver Henry*'s crew with dewatering and damage control as they head toward Palau. Their estimated time of arrival is 33 hours. The weather on the scene is reported as 25 mph winds and 4- to 6-foot seas.

The cutter crew was on a routine patrol for Operation Rematau when they received the distress signal and immediately responded. The vessel is a 154-foot 497-ton Belize-flagged luxury yacht designed for dive excursions. They were reportedly en route to Cebu, Philippines, for maintenance.

At 3:37pm on July 20, JRSC Guam watch received an Inmarsat C distress alert relayed from the team at JRCC Australia, identifying the motor yacht *Black Pearl 1*. Initial information lacked the distress nature or position, but the watch received an AIS position and diverted the Oliver Henry crew.

They also identified the U.S.-flagged general cargo vessel SLNC York, 135 nautical miles away, and requested their assistance through the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue program. They diverted from their voyage and arrived on the scene at 12:30am on July 21. They made first contact with the yacht crew and relayed to *Oliver Henry* that the vessel had a steering issue but was not requesting assistance, attempting their repairs. All persons aboard were in good health, and the vessel had power.

By 6:12am on July 21, the USCGC *Oliver Henry* crew arrived on the scene and noted the vessel's steering issues, including a locked rudder at 10 degrees, and that the vessel was taking on water.

At 6:53am, the *Oliver Henry* crew placed a rescue and assistance team aboard the Black Pearl 1 to help with dewatering and assess damage control needs. JRSC Guam watchstanders are coordinating with the vessel's management company in China and the Palau search and rescue liaison officer for additional support from Palau Maritime.

USCG

A rescue and assistance team from the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) approaches the 150-foot 497-ton motor yacht *Black Pearl 1*, located approximately 200 nautical miles west of the Republic of Palau, on July 21, 2024, after responding to a distress call.

"Search and rescue is the Coast Guard's no-fail mission, and our commitment to this responsibility is unwavering. Fast response cutters, like the USCGC *Oliver Henry*, are crucial in our ability to respond effectively to emergencies across this vast region. The AMVER system is another critical tool in our mission. Sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, AMVER is a global ship-reporting system that allows us to identify and divert participating ships to assist those in distress at sea without imposing additional obligations beyond international law. In an emergency like this, we are all partners," said Capt. Robert Kistner, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia.

USCG

A crewman aboard USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) tosses a heaving line to set up a tow to the crew of the 150-foot 497-ton motor yacht *Black Pearl 1*, located approximately 200 nautical miles west of the Republic of Palau on July 21, 2024, after responding to a distress call.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia personnel, responsible for a 1.9 million square nautical miles search and rescue zone, continue to monitor the situation, ensuring the safety of life at sea for all. This incident underscores the Coast Guard's commitment to safeguarding maritime interests and security across the Blue Pacific, steadfastly dedicated to serving the nation and its partners.

About Operation Rematau

Operation Rematau is how U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam supports the overarching Coast Guard endeavor Operation Blue Pacific to promote security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania. Rematau means people of the deep sea. It reinforces the U.S. commitment to working together to advance Pacific regionalism based on the Blue Pacific narrative. This action supports U.S. national security objectives, bolstering regional maritime good governance and security.

About USCGC *Oliver Henry*

USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service. Designed for many missions, including search and rescue, national defense, and maritime law enforcement, the *Oliver Henry* plays a significant role in safeguarding national interests and preserving good maritime governance.

For more information about U.S. Coast Guard actions, get in touch with CWO Sara Muir, public affairs officer, at sara.g.muir@uscg.mil or uscgforcesmicronesia@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Nation

AFTER DISASTROUS DEBATE INFLAMED AGE CONCERNS

Biden drops out of 2024 race

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 race for the White House on Sunday, ending his bid for reelection after a disastrous debate with Donald Trump that raised doubts about the incumbent's fitness for office. The unprecedented announcement, delivered less than four months before the election, immediately upended a campaign that both political parties view as the most consequential in generations.

The president—intent on serving out the remainder of his term in office—quickly endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to take on Trump and encouraged his party to unite behind her, making her the party's instant favorite for the nomination at its August convention in Chicago.

The announcement is the latest jolt to a tumultuous campaign for the White House, coming a week after the attempted assassination of Trump at a Pennsylvania rally.

AP

President Joe Biden speaks in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, Feb. 8, 2024, in Washington.

A party's presumptive presidential nominee has never stepped out of the race so close to the election. President Lyndon Johnson, besieged by the Vietnam War, announced in March 1968 that he would not seek another term after just a single state's primary. Biden's July decision comes after more than 14 million Democrats cast votes supporting him through the primary process.

» VP Harris gets his nod

Harris, in a statement, praised Biden's "selfless and patriotic act" and said she intends to "earn and win" her party's nomination.

"I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party—and unite our nation—to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda," she said.

Biden's decision to bow out came after escalating pressure from his Democratic allies to step aside following the June 27 debate, in which the 81-year-old president trailed off, often gave nonsensical answers and failed to call out the former president's many falsehoods.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Biden wrote in a letter posted Sunday to his X account.

Nearly 30 minutes after he delivered the news that he was folding his campaign, Biden threw his support behind Harris.

"Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year," he said in another post on X. "Democrats—it's time to come together and beat Trump."

Harris faces a staggering political to-do list in the coming days: securing the votes of delegates to claim her party's nomination, picking a running mate, and pivoting a massive political operation that had been built to reelect Biden to boost her candidacy instead. Harris, if elected, would be the first woman and the first person of South Asian descent to be president.

There were early signs that the party was moving to coalesce around Harris, who scored the endorsements of the Congressional Black Caucus and former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton even before she had commented on Biden's decision to quit the race. But notably, former President Barack Obama held off, pledging support behind the eventual party nominee.

"We are honored to join the President in endorsing Vice President Harris and will do whatever we can to support her," the Clintons said in a statement.

But Obama, who had privately shared doubts about Biden's reelection chances, stopped short of endorsing Harris even as he praised Biden for his decision to leave the race.

"I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges," he said in a statement.

Biden's decision came as he has been isolating at his Delaware beach house after being diagnosed with COVID-19 last week, huddling with a shrinking circle of close confidants and family members about his political future. Biden said he would address the nation later this week to provide "detail" about his decision.

Biden's legacy: Far-reaching accomplishments that didn't translate into political support

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sitting in the Oval Office behind the iconic Resolute desk in 2022, an animated President Joe Biden described the challenge of leading a psychologically traumatized nation.

The United States had endured a life-altering pandemic. There was a jarring burst of inflation and now global conflict with Russia invading Ukraine, as well as the persistent threat to democracy he felt Donald Trump posed.

How could Biden possibly heal that collective trauma?

"Be confident," he said emphatically in an interview with The Associated Press. "Be confident. Because I am confident."

But in the ensuing two years, the confidence Biden hoped to instill steadily waned. And when the 81-year-old Democratic president showed his age in a disastrous debate in June against Trump, he lost the benefit of the doubt as well. That triggered a series of events that led him Sunday to step down as his party's nominee for the November's election.

Democrats, who had been united in their resolve to prevent another Trump term, suddenly fractured. And Republicans, beset by chaos in Congress and the former president's criminal conviction, improbably coalesced in defiant unity.

Biden never figured out how to inspire the world's most powerful country to believe in itself, let alone in him.

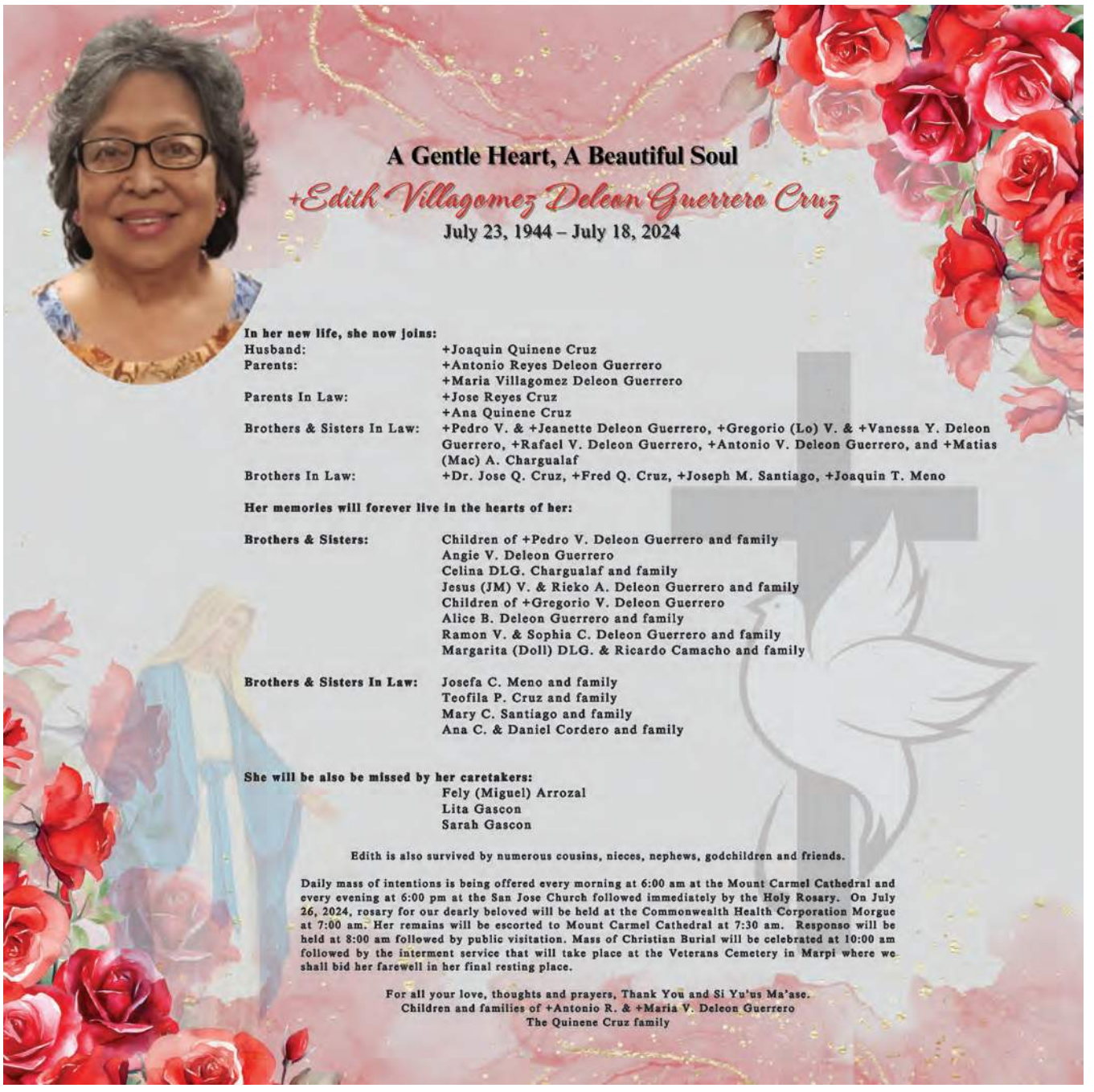
He lost the confidence of supporters in the 90-minute debate with Trump, even if pride initially prompted him to override the fears of lawmakers, party elders and donors who were nudging him to drop out. Then Trump survived an assassination attempt in Pennsylvania and, as if on cue, pumped his fist in strength. Biden, while campaigning in Las Vegas, tested positive for the coronavirus Wednesday and retreated to his Delaware beach home to recover.

The events over the course of three weeks led to an exit Biden never wanted, but one that Democrats felt they needed to maximize their chance of winning in November's elections.

Biden seems to have badly misread the breadth of his support. While many Democrats had deep admiration for the president personally, they did not have the same affection for him politically.

Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley said Biden arrived as a reprieve from a nation exhausted by Trump and the pandemic.

"He was a perfect person for that moment," said Brinkley, noting Biden proved in era of polarization that bipartisan lawmaking was still possible.


A Gentle Heart, A Beautiful Soul
+Edith Villagomez Deleon Guerrero Cruz
July 23, 1944 – July 18, 2024
In her new life, she now joins:
Husband: +Joaquin Quinene Cruz
Parents: +Antonio Reyes Deleon Guerrero
+Maria Villagomez Deleon Guerrero
Parents In Law: +Jose Reyes Cruz
+Ana Quinene Cruz
Brothers & Sisters In Law: +Pedro V. & +Jeanette Deleon Guerrero, +Gregorio (Lo) V. & +Vanessa Y. Deleon Guerrero, +Rafael V. Deleon Guerrero, +Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero, and +Matias (Mac) A. Chargualaf
Brothers In Law: +Dr. Jose Q. Cruz, +Fred Q. Cruz, +Joseph M. Santiago, +Joaquin T. Meno
Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Brothers & Sisters: Children of +Pedro V. Deleon Guerrero and family
Angie V. Deleon Guerrero
Celina DLG. Chargualaf and family
Jesus (JM) V. & Rieko A. Deleon Guerrero and family
Children of +Gregorio V. Deleon Guerrero
Alice B. Deleon Guerrero and family
Ramon V. & Sophia C. Deleon Guerrero and family
Margarita (Doll) DLG. & Ricardo Camacho and family
Brothers & Sisters In Law: Josefa C. Meno and family
Teofila P. Cruz and family
Mary C. Santiago and family
Ana C. & Daniel Cordero and family
She will be also be missed by her caretakers:
Fely (Miguel) Arrozal
Lita Gascon
Sarah Gascon
Edith is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.
Daily mass of intentions is being offered every morning at 6:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and every evening at 6:00 pm at the San Jose Church followed immediately by the Holy Rosary. On July 26, 2024, rosary for our dearly beloved will be held at the Commonwealth Health Corporation Morgue at 7:00 am. Her remains will be escorted to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso will be held at 8:00 am followed by public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by the interment service that will take place at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi where we shall bid her farewell in her final resting place.
For all your love, thoughts and prayers, Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Children and families of +Antonio R. & +Maria V. Deleon Guerrero
The Quinene Cruz family

Life & Style

'Twisters' whips up $80.5M at box office, while 'Deadpool & Wolverine' looms

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Glen Powell, right, and Daisy Edgar-Jones in a scene from "Twisters."

Moviegoers ran toward the tornadoes this weekend, propelling "Twisters" to a blockbuster opening. The standalone sequel to the 1996 hit made $80.5 million in ticket sales from 4,151 theaters in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That's about $30 million more than analysts expected initially, and makes for the biggest opening of a live-action movie yet this summer.

"We had big aspirations for it to begin with, and it certainly exceeded those," said Jim Orr, who heads distribution for Universal. "We're seriously over-indexing between coasts which is fun to see as well."

Its overperformance recalled "Oppenheimer's" debut last year on the same weekend. There are some similiarities: The studio, Universal, and the numbers. But there are also important differences: "Oppenheimer" was 3-hours long, R-rated ("Twisters" is PG-13) and historical, not to mention the collective enthusiasm around its release date companion, "Barbie."

"Twisters," meanwhile, is a franchise. It may not be a direct sequel to "Twister" but it is benefiting from the brand recognition. The original Jan de Bont-directed film starring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton was a financial hit at the time and has only become more beloved over the years. This film, directed by Lee Isaac Chung, does not include any of the characters from the original and introduces a new crowd of storm chasers.

"This is just further evidence that when you create something that's compelling and interesting and has broad appeal, that all across the country people will show up," said Michael O'Leary, the president and CEO of the National Association of Theatre Owners. "I think the word of mouth on this movie is going to be exceptional."

The Universal, Warner Bros. and Amblin production cost $155 million to produce and millions more to promote. Part of the push included a country music heavy soundtrack, with a new Luke Combs single "Aint No Love in Oklahoma" which has racked up more than 56 million audio streams. The soundtrack as a whole, featuring the likes of Bailey Zimmerman, Tucker Wetmore, Tanner Adell, Lainey Wilson, Tyler Childers, Thomas Rhett and Miranda Lambert, has over 75 million streams.

Critics were mixed but mostly positive about the 2-hour thriller. Audiences gave it an enthusiastic A- CinemaScore and 4.5 stars on PostTrak. Also of note: 24% of moviegoers polled by PostTrack said actor Glen Powell was a main draw.

"Our director crafted exactly what audiences want to see in theaters: A very immersive, exciting, mayhem everywhere story with a charming cast," Orr said.

Bob Bagby, the chair of the theatre owners association and the CEO of Kansas City-based B&B Theatres, which has about 580 screens, said their 4DX auditoriums have been nearly sold out all weekend. 4DX is an "immersive" presentation format for films that includes seat-shaking and wind effects.

"Twisters" has also whipped up some spirited online discourse and debate, some about the film not explicitly referencing climate change and some about the lack of a kiss between Powell and Daisy Edgar-Jones. A video showing the kiss that was left on the cutting room floor made the rounds on social media over the weekend.

Bagby appreciated that there was no "surprise political or social agenda."

Hollywood reacts to Joe Biden exiting the presidential race

Hollywood was quick to react to the news that President Joe Biden was ending his bid for reelection and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris.

Barbra Streisand, a Democratic supporter, wrote Sunday on X that "we should be grateful for his upholding of our democracy." While many paid tribute to Biden's presidency, others wondered about the future.

Cher wrote on X that she was "tortured" because she doesn't believe the Democrats could win without Biden. She said it was time to think "way outside the box" and proposed a split ticket.

In recent weeks, several high-profile Hollywood names had begun calling for Biden to exit the race. Just weeks after headlining a record-breaking fundraiser for the president's reelection campaign, George Clooney wrote a New York Times opinion piece calling for Biden to end his bid.

Clooney argued that the party should pick a new nominee, saying the process would be "messy" but "wake up" voters in the party's favor.

Others who attended or participated in the starry fundraiser in Los Angeles included Julia Roberts, Streisand, Jimmy Kimmel, former President Barack Obama, Jack Black, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Kathryn Hahn and Jason Bateman.

Ralph, on Sunday, posted a photo of herself and Harris writing "President Biden has endorsed Kamala Harris!"

Here are some notable celebrity reactions:

Barbra Streisand

"Joe Biden will go down in history as a man who accomplished significant achievements in his 4 year term. We should be grateful for his upholding of our democracy." — via a post on X.

Cher

"In my heart im tortured, Because I Don't believe the Democrats Can win the Presidency With"Pres Biden" "Joe" whom I've Loved since we met in 2008. I Campaigned for him I believe ITS TIME 2 PASS THE BATON. TIME 4 DEMS 2 THINK " WAY" OUTSIDE THE BOX. MAYBE EVEN A SPLIT TICKET."—via posts on X.

Mark Hamill

"@JoeBiden has a record of accomplishments unmatched by any president in our lifetime. He restored honesty, dignity & integrity to the office after 4 years of lies, crime, scandal & chaos. Thank you for your service, Mr. President. It's now our duty as patriotic Americans to elect the Democrat who will honor & further your legacy."—via a post on X. The "Star Wars" star visited Biden in the Oval Office in May, jokingly calling him "Joe-bi-Wan-Kenobi."

George Takei

"I want to honor our President @JoeBiden. He has served our nation admirably for decades, he is a decent honorable man, a hugely successful president, and a patriot. Now let us unite behind @KamalaHarris and defeat Donald Trump in November!"—via a post on X.

Russell Brand

"Joe Biden has endorsed Kamala Harris for the Democratic nomination after ending reelection bid. We're in a wild world, mate."—via a post on X. Brand recently said voters should pick Trump over Biden. ***(AP)***

Online couple prepares to take major step forward

DEAR ABBY: I'm a Chinese man born in the United States. My girlfriend, whom I've yet to meet in person, lives in China and is 24 years younger than I am. (I live in California.) We're awaiting approval of paperwork with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. We have both been divorced twice. She has a grown son (single) in his 30s in Japan. My two children are in their 50s and self-sufficient.

We both are Christian and educated. Her English proficiency is fair to good. I'm a physician; she's a teacher. We are kind, gentle, patient people. We plan to meet and, hopefully, marry. She would relocate to the U.S., and I might continue to work part time. From what I've told you, how would you rate our chances of marital success?

HOPING FOR THE BEST

DEAR HOPING: Are you ABSOLUTELY certain that this woman is who she says she is? Many people have been duped by someone they met on the internet. Have you discussed this with your adult children, who might be more tech-savvy? (I hope so!)

You and this woman have never seen each other in person and have no idea what the chemistry between the two of you would be like. When she arrives, take sufficient time to get to know each other, observe each other in various situations (including stressful ones) and figure out whether your personalities and lifestyles mesh. Because of these unanswered questions, I think your chances of success are about 50-50.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My parents are in their early 70s and have been married 51 years. They have two homes—one in the Midwest and another in the South. They used to go back and forth between them together, but for the past two years, they have basically lived in separate states.

In total, they spend about two months a year together, and Mom complains nonstop when they are together. She is concerned only with herself and having fun, and she has progressively ignored my dad, my brother, her grandchildren and me. I'm so angry with her that I think my dad should divorce her. She stays with him only for his money and admits it to me and all of her friends.

Should I tell Dad to divorce her? I don't understand why he puts up with her behavior. I'm convinced once he dies (his health is worse than hers), we will never hear from her again.

FRUSTRATED AND HURT IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Many marriages are close and loving ones; others are what I would call "arrangements." Your parents apparently have the latter because it may work better for them (possibly for religious or financial reasons) than divorce.

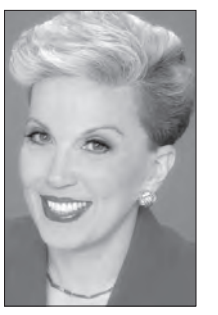
Please refrain from telling your father what to do. I have a strong hunch he has thought this through. As to your relationship with dear old Mom, you have my sympathy. You may need a therapist to deal with her selfishness and rejection of you, your brother and the grandchildren.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

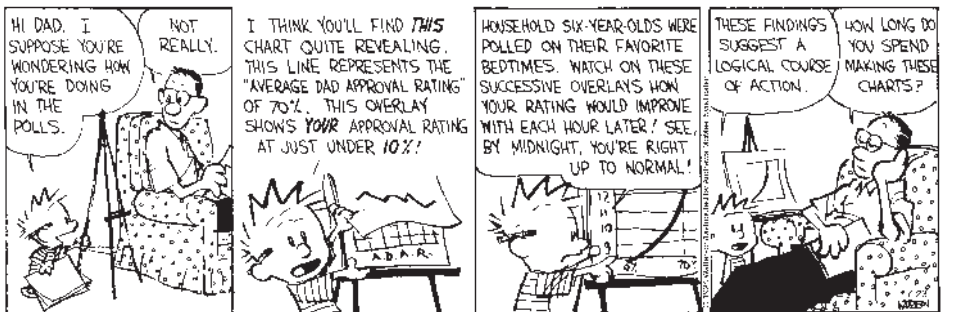


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

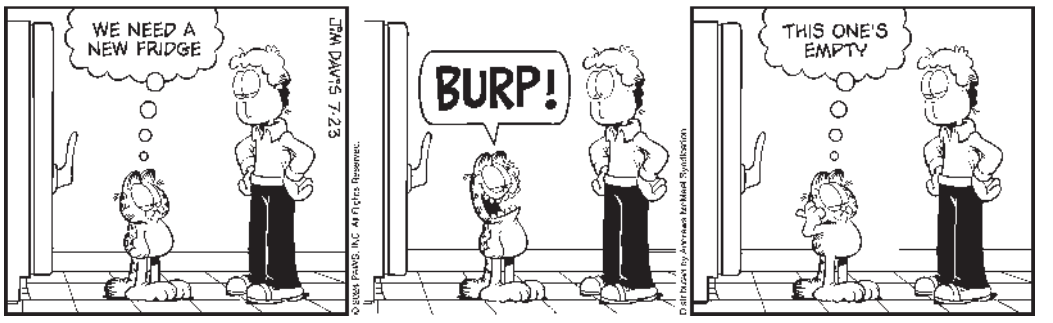
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI DAD. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING HOW YOU'RE DOING IN THE POLLS.
NOT REALLY.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS CHART QUITE REVEALING. THIS LINE REPRESENTS THE "AVERAGE DAD APPROVAL RATING" OF 70%. THIS OVERLAY SHOWS YOUR APPROVAL RATING AT JUST UNDER 10%!
A.D.A.R.
HOUSEHOLD SIX-YEAR-OLDS WERE POLLED ON THEIR FAVORITE BEDTIMES. WATCH ON THESE SUCCESSIVE OVERLAYS HOW YOUR RATING WOULD IMPROVE WITH EACH HOUR LATER! SEE, BY MIDNIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT UP TO NORMAL!
THESE FINDINGS SUGGEST A LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION.
HOW LONG DO YOU SPEND MAKING THESE CHARTS?

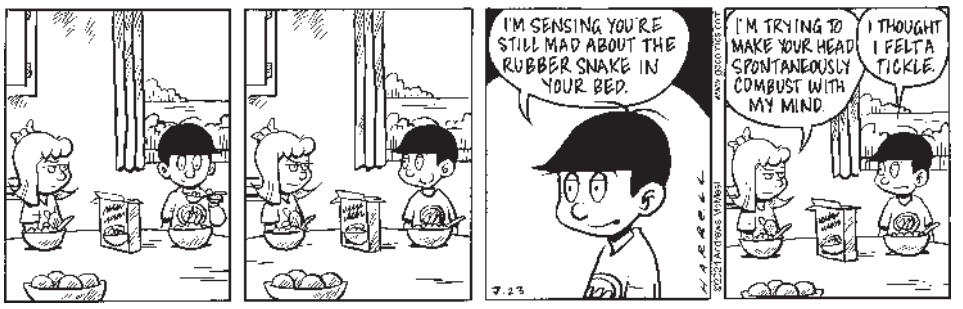
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



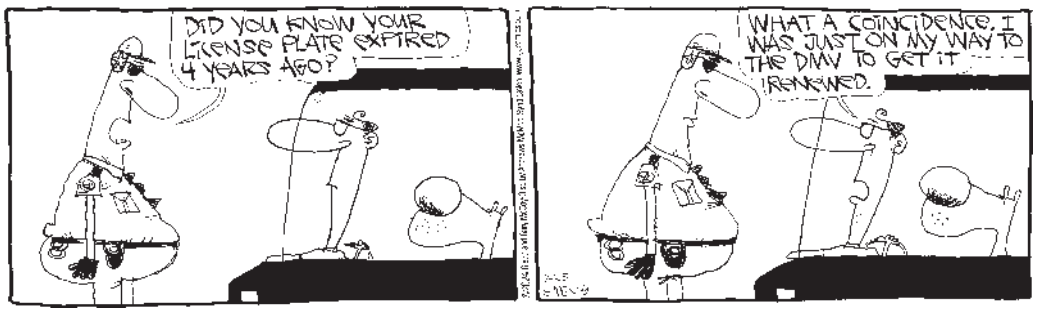
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M SENSING YOU'RE STILL MAD ABOUT THE RUBBER SNAKE IN YOUR BED.
I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOUR HEAD SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST WITH MY MIND.
I THOUGHT I FELT A TICKLE.
7.23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Datum
5 "Jeopardy!" champion Buttrey
8 Painter Holbein
12 Baseball's Tommie
13 Diner dessert
14 Opera solo
15 Bama fan's cheer
17 "Phooey!"
18 Long. crosser
19 Cafe furniture
21 Propelled a scull
24 Hawaiian city
25 Swerve
26 Landlord's log
30 Before
31 Europe's longest river
32 Soccer's Hamm
33 Quaint desk styles
35 See to
36 Moon-landing vehicles
37 Forehead fringe
38 Moses of the NBA
41 Sailor
42 "Hey, sailor!"
43 Sushi bar order
48 Shipping dept. stamp
49 Capote nickname
50 Footnote abbr.
51 Dec. holiday
52 Golf's Ernie
53 Moves rapidly

DOWN
1 Distant
2 In the past
3 Cartoon frame
4 Bank worker
5 Skewer
6 Assist
7 Get-togethers
8 Marina locale
9 Asia's — Sea
10 Evening, in an ad
11 Back talk
16 Smidgen
20 Utah ski resort
21 Done with
22 Plane-related
23 Stagger
24 Lends a hand
26 Sleeping-car area
27 Warning sign
28 TV journalist Lisa
29 Young fellows
31 Powerful auto engine
34 London insurer
35 City in Iran
37 Fluffy neckpiece
38 "Das Kapital" author
39 Throat clearer
40 "Livin' La Vida —"
41 Wildebeests
44 Web address
45 Japanese sash
46 Balm target
47 Mormon church, for short

Solution time: 22 mins.

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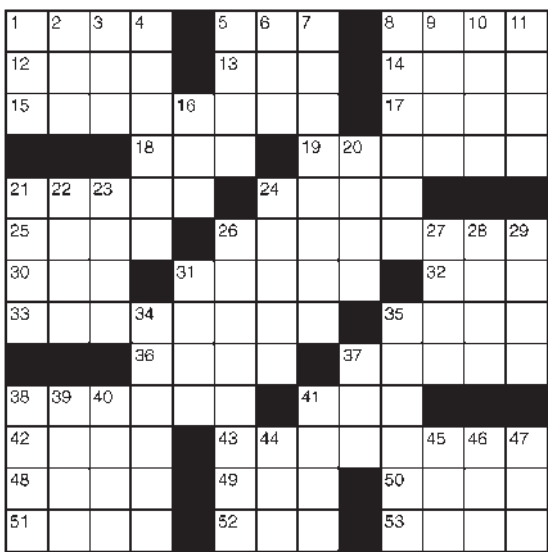
Yesterday's answer 7-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daniel Radcliffe, 35; Paul Wesley, 42; Marlon Wayans, 52; Woody Harrelson, 63.

Happy Birthday: Think twice before you spend or donate cash. If you want to be helpful, offer your skills or time to organizations you favor, and you'll make valuable connections that lead to bringing cash in instead of giving it away. Be receptive to what's trending, and keep up with the times to ensure you don't get left behind by those quick to incorporate the latest and most remarkable techniques. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 25, 31, 46, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* It's OK to share your talents, but first, attach a price to your time. People will respect and appreciate what you offer if you set boundaries. Insight will pave the way to a lucrative future. Invent and manifest what you desire. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Re-evaluate your worth, rethink your next move and take the path that makes sense. At the end of the day, it's you who must be happy with the decisions you make. Don't be fooled into thinking you can buy love, trust and equality. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't give up or get angry. Consider what you are trying to achieve, and come up with a plan dedicated to learning. Follow your heart, not someone misusing your attributes. Believe in yourself and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Hold your head high and navigate a path to the top. Set standards to live by and goals that stretch your imagination but are still within reason. Interviews, meetings and financial matters will turn out better than you anticipate if you pay attention to detail. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Sign up for something that excites you or improves your health. Start a regimen focused on getting you in shape. The better you look and feel, the easier it is to advance. Don't be a slouch; activity and participation are the keys to life, love and happiness. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Target your goal and stick to your plans. If you venture off course, you will need help completing your mission. Be cautious of anyone trying to change your mind. Discipline and hard work will get you to your destination. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You're on the right track; don't let lethargy step in and take away your pep. Stay focused, be creative and don't be afraid to dance to the beat that draws you. The trick to success is finding enjoyment in what you do and being grateful for your skills. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Spend more time caring for yourself and your environment. Change begins with you, so make every move count. Refrain from allowing others to disrupt your plans or take advantage of what you have to offer. Make changes for the right reason. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be resourceful, gather information, ask questions and agree to something only once you are satisfied that you can achieve your goals. Trust yourself and distance yourself from those offering pretenses or conspiracy theories. Verify facts and move forward. Arguing is a waste of time. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a closer look at your investments, contracts and qualifications. Question anything that appears to be outdated or overdue. A domestic change needs careful handling if you want to avoid interference. A joint venture will require proper management. Avoid shared expenses. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Devise a more efficient way to live and implement change. Don't expect everyone to agree with your plans. Don't hesitate to remove yourself from a situation lacking what you need to be happy. Take responsibility and explore your options. Self-improvement will lead to personal opportunities. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You need time to think. Avoid argumentative individuals who stretch the truth. Stick to what and who you know and trust. Don't let an emotional matter infiltrate into other aspects of your life. Separate business from pleasure. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, ambitious and entertaining. You are impulsive and generous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	8	6		3	5		
		3		7	9	1		
4		7				6	3	
				8			5	
		4				8	7	
2	8		7	6		3		4
	6				2	7	1	5
				1		4	8	
		2	8		7	9		

Difficulty: ★★ 7/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	9	6	5	8	3	2	1	4
8	2	4	9	1	6	3	5	7
3	1	5	2	7	4	9	6	8
2	8	7	3	9	1	5	4	6
6	4	9	7	5	2	1	8	3
1	5	3	4	6	8	7	9	2
5	3	8	1	4	7	6	2	9
4	7	1	6	2	9	8	3	5
9	6	2	8	3	5	4	7	1

Difficulty: ★ 7/22

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ELEVENSES Solution: 8 letters

E	I	L	O	N	N	A	C	J	M	A	E	R	C	P
K	U	P	A	S	T	R	Y	A	O	F	R	U	I	T
L	C	G	N	V	D	E	D	M	R	R	J	E	A	E
I	I	A	N	O	E	B	U	S	N	U	S	R	S	D
M	L	L	N	I	I	N	E	D	I	T	T	N	G	A
P	C	U	U	S	R	I	D	C	N	I	F	F	U	M
N	T	H	C	N	K	E	E	E	G	O	T	E	M	E
O	C	U	E	O	C	B	M	S	R	E	F	C	A	M
I	I	E	O	E	R	H	O	K	E	T	Ⓐ	L	C	O
T	C	C	R	E	S	U	U	W	I	Ⓔ	L	A	A	H
P	O	D	A	E	F	E	S	E	Ⓣ	I	B	I	R	O
E	F	K	R	F	A	H	S	I	N	A	D	R	O	B
C	F	F	L	U	E	L	E	A	Z	Z	I	P	N	B
E	E	E	N	O	C	S	V	N	G	G	N	I	C	I
R	E	K	A	C	N	A	P	R	E	T	Z	E	L	T

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Biscuit, Bite, Break, Café, Cannoli, Cereal, Cheese, Coffee, Cookies, Cream, Curd, Danish, Donut, Eclair, Fondue, Fruit, Hobbit, Homemade, Icing, Jams, Juice, Late, Lavender, Lunch, Macaron, Meringue, Milk, Morning, Mousse, Muffin, Mugs, Pancake, Pastry, Pies, Pizza, Plans, Pretzel, Reception, Refreshments, Scone, Snack, Soufflé, Sweet, Tart, Tea, Vanilla

Yesterday's Answer: Geology

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

King, 2 relievers toss 2-hitter as Padres edge Guardians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Michael King did not allow a hit until the seventh inning, Kyle Higashioka had a two-run double and the San Diego Padres beat the American League Central-leading Cleveland Guardians 2-1 on Sunday.

King's bid for the second no-hitter in franchise history ended when Angel Martínez led off the seventh with a bloop single to center. The right-hander was acquired from the Yankees in the blockbuster deal that sent Juan Soto to New York on Dec. 7, 2023.

"I felt like I made a good pitch, but soft contact found the hole," King said, shrugging. "I know we can compete with the best teams like Cleveland. And at home, they're incredible, but I thought we handled their lineup pretty well."

Jeremiah Estrada followed King, while Robert Suarez recorded the final four outs for his 23rd save and completed the two-hitter. The Padres won two of three over the Guardians, who have the best home record in the majors at 31-13.

King (8-6) worked seven innings, giving up one run and two hits with six strikeouts and one walk. In six career games against Cleveland, he has a 0.51 ERA over 17 2/3 innings.

"Maybe I'm being greedy, but I think he got a little unlucky with the bloop single," said Higashioka, who also was in the Soto trade. "He was super sharp and easily could have gone seven scoreless. It's always nice to catch him because I know how good he is."

Dylan Cease, Estrada and Yuki Matsui threw a combined one-hitter Saturday in a 7-0 win, limiting Cleveland to two baserunners. The Guardians went 3 for 55 in the two-game span, dropping their first series since April 13-14 against the Yankees.

AP

San Diego Padres pitcher Michael King is greeted in the dugout after the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians, Sunday, July 21, 2024, in Cleveland.

"Man, Michael was good today," San Diego manager Mike Shildt said. "Our starting pitching the whole series was outstanding."

Martínez scored on Josh Naylor's grounder in the seventh to pull Cleveland within one. José Ramírez singled earlier in the inning for the Guardians' other hit.

"I don't think we're going through a funk," Cleveland manager Stephen Vogt said. "We had two very good pitchers shut us down the last two days."

The Padres took a 2-0 lead in the second inning on Higashioka's double that scored Jackson Merrill and Ha-Seong Kim. Guardians starter Ben Lively (8-6) went 5 1/3 innings and lost for the first time in six home decisions this season.

Currently injured starter Joe Musgrove tossed the only no-hitter in Padres history on April 9, 2021, at Texas, a 3-0 victory.

ASTROS 6, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP)—Luke Raley hit a three-run homer, Bryan Woo pitched 5 2/3 solid innings and the Seattle Mariners overcame an injury to Julio Rodriguez to beat the Houston Astros 6-4 on Sunday.

Rodriguez left the game with two outs in the sixth inning after he leapt for a flyball and appeared to twist his right ankle against the pad of the center field fence on a triple by Yordan Alvarez, who hit for the cycle.

RAYS 6, YANKEES 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Richie Palacios led off the game against Marcus Stroman with the first of Tampa Bay's four home runs, Jose Siri took a 34-second trot after his longball and the Tampa Bay Rays beat New York.

CARDINALS 6, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt hit one of four St. Louis home runs after getting dropped in the order as they knocked off Atlanta to win the weekend series.

NATIONALS 5, REDS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—James Wood hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, and Washington completed a three-game sweep of Cincinnati.

BLUE JAYS 5, TIGERS 4

TORONTO (AP)—George Springer hit two home runs, including the 58th leadoff shot of his career, and Toronto avoided a three-game sweep by beating Detroit.

ROYALS 4, WHITE SOX 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Seth Lugo retired 14 straight batters in his first career complete game as Kansas City rallied past Chicago for a win and series sweep.

RANGERS 3, ORIOLES 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer, Andrew Heaney pitched two-hit ball over five scoreless innings and Texas beat Baltimore to avoid a three-game sweep in a postseason rematch from last year.

CUBS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Nico Hoerner doubled and scored the tying run in the ninth inning, then walked with the bases loaded in the 10th to give Chicago victory over the Arizona.

BREWERS 8, TWINS 7

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Rhys Hoskins hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning and rookie Jackson Chourio homered and drove in three runs to lift Milwaukee to a two-game sweep of Minnesota at Target Field.

MARLINS 4, METS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a three-run homer, Jake Burger also went deep and Miami beat New York.

GIANTS 3, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP) — Jorge Soler opened the game with the longest homer in the majors this season, rookie Hayden Birdsong struck out a career-high 12, and San Francisco beat Colorado.

DODGERS 9, RED SOX 6

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit a 473-foot home run and Los Angeles went deep six times in a victory over Boston.

Beltré, Helton, Mauer, Leyland inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Adrian Beltré, Joe Mauer and Todd Helton were pegged as athletic phenoms from a young age and all three lived up to expectations with their induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday.

The Los Angeles Dodgers were so sold on Beltré early on that they broke MLB rules to sign him before he turned 16.

Beltré reached the big leagues just after his 19th birthday and was quickly considered one of the best prospects in sports as a teenager.

In Beltré's induction speech, he said he played for his first team at age 13 and was a second baseman because his dad told him that was the position he should play.

After a teammate asked him to switch and play third base, Beltré obliged and the decision paid off.

Beltré played 21 years for the Dodgers, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox and Texas Rangers. He became a five-time Gold Glove winner and is the first third baseman with at least 450 home runs and 3,000 hits.

During his playing days, Beltré made it clear that he did not like anyone touching his head so of course, his teammates ignored the request and made a habit of touching his head anyway. At Sunday's ceremony, fellow Hall of Famer David Ortiz continued the tradition by touching Beltré's head prior to his speech.

"That never relaxes me," Beltré said with a laugh. "(But) it was a little cute to go back to my playing days. … It's just part of being in this fraternity. Even though I don't love it, I don't like it, but it felt like I'm open to people to be able to play around with me. I always like that."

Mauer was a high school phenom in both football and baseball in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was named USA Today's High School Player of the Year in football in 2000 and baseball in 2001.

He was drafted by his hometown Twins with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 MLB Draft.

"It was truly an honor to be a (Minnesota Twin) and represent my hometown team," Mauer said.

The future six-time All-Star catcher spent just three years in the minors before spending all 15 years of his big league career with the Twins.

Mauer finished with one Most Valuable Player award and three batting titles, and is the only catcher in history with at least 2,000 hits, a .300 batting average and a .380 on-base percentage.

Mauer noted the emotion he felt seeing all the Minnesota fans throughout the weekend.

"It's not easy to get to Cooperstown and especially with the events that have happened this last week," he said. "But to see that many Twins fans out there, I just felt the love and I was just hoping that I could deliver the speech that I wrote down."

Helton was also a football and baseball star and played both sports at the University of Tennessee.

Despite his dominance in both sports at an early age, Helton never felt comfortable in the spotlight or felt like a Hall of Famer.

"Those of you who know me know I'd be more comfortable doing anything other than standing up here talking about myself," Helton said to open his speech. "I'm just a ballplayer and anyone in the media can attest to that fact."

Helton's claim to fame could have been that he was the quarterback at Tennessee between future first-round NFL draft picks Heath Shuler and Peyton Manning, but he was destined for bigger things on the baseball diamond.

After a knee injury in 1994 paved the way for Manning to become Tennessee's quarterback, Helton shifted all his focus to baseball, where he was named the winner of the Dick Howser Award by the American Baseball Coaches Association and named Player of the Year by Baseball America.

Helton was selected by the Colorado Rockies with the No. 8 overall pick in the 1995 amateur draft and never left the Mile High City.

After becoming the starting first baseman in 1995, Helton finished second in NL Rookie of the Year voting and posted a .315 batting average with 25 home runs and 97 RBIs.

He went on to become one of just three players to record multiple seasons with 100-plus extra-base hits in his career and helped the Rockies reach the 2007 World Series.

While Helton began the weekend feeling out of place, the second Rockies Hall of Famer knows he is where he belongs now.

"Just standing back there waiting to go up onto the stage, the guys were so kind, but they all came by and offered me advice," Helton said. "For me, that was the beginning of feeling that I belong. But we have a players-only dinner tonight and I'll probably feel like I belong after that."

Jim Leyland was elected by the Contemporary Baseball Era Committee. He managed for 22 seasons, won three Manager of the Year awards, the 1997 World Series, had a 1,769-1,728 career record as a manager and was the manager of the U.S. team in 2017 when the Americans won their only World Baseball Classic crown.

Leyland made sure to acknowledge the importance of the fans to the game of baseball.

"No matter which Hall of Famer you're here to support today, or which team you cheer for, your presence is always felt," Leyland said. "On your feet in the ninth with the home team clinging to a one-run lead, turning on your television for the first game in the World Series and seeing 50,000 fans hoping and praying that this may be their year, or a little boy or girl getting their first autograph scurrying back to the stands to show mom and dad what they just did. Ladies and gentlemen, that's you. That's baseball. And this is the Hall of Fame."

Beltré led this year's class with 95.1% of the Baseball Writers' Association of America vote in his first year on the ballot. Helton followed with 79.7% in his sixth year of eligibility and Mauer received 76.1% in his first year.

Players who fell short of the 75% threshold for election included Billy Wagner (73.8%), Gary Sheffield (63.9%), Andruw Jones (61.6%) and Carlos Beltrán (57.1%). Sheffield was on the ballot for the 10th time without reaching the 75% mark and is no longer eligible for BBWAA consideration.

Joe Castiglione and Gerry Fraley were also honored during Hall of Fame weekend. Castiglione has been the Boston Red Sox radio broadcaster for a record 42 seasons and received the Ford C. Frick Award. Fraley was posthumously honored with the BBWAA Career Excellence Award for his work as a writer. Fraley covered the Philadelphia Phillies, Atlanta Braves and Texas Rangers, and also worked as the national baseball writer for the Dallas Morning News.

Lakers shut down Bronny after back-to-back promising performances

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Bronny James was a spectator on Saturday after the Los Angeles Lakers determined that they have seen all they need out of the NBA's most talked-about rookie.

He finished Summer League on an upward trajectory after a dismal start, scoring 25 points on 10-of-21 shooting over his final two games. That included making 3 of 8 baskets from 3-point range after going 0 for 15 in his first four games.

"He had two pretty good games last two," Lakers Summer League coach Dane Johnson said. "I think it's just going to help him going into the summer so we can work on different things with him. Just that confidence and knowing he can play at this level. It's still going to take a lot of time and a lot of reps."

Some fans were disappointed that the Lakers kept James on the bench, briefly breaking out a chant of "We want Bronny" in the first quarter of Saturday's 107-81 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

In Summer League stints in San Francisco and then Las Vegas, the son of NBA career scoring leader LeBron James opened shooting 7 for 31 overall. That fueled talk—or reinforced the notion—the Lakers had wasted their 55th pick as a favor to the face of the franchise.

The younger James quieted at least some of that talk with his performances Wednesday against the Atlanta Hawks and the following night against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"In general, he doesn't let any of that stuff get to him," Johnson said. "He just wants to play basketball and be on a team. He's a good kid. He's listening. He's trying to learn."

There is still plenty to learn.

At 6-foot-2, James has the build of a point guard, but he doesn't bring the ball up the court because of concerns about his ballhandling. He instead has played shooting guard, which could be a problem when going against taller players at that position.

"I think right now he's more of a (shooting guard), but I think he could be a combo-ish," Johnson said. "He picks up stuff really well. We throw stuff at him—plays, coverages, defensively. He kind of picks it up really quick, so I think he could potentially be (a point guard). Maybe we'll work on that in the summer, but I think right now being that secondary playmaker is kind of where he's at right now."

James also has to show he can be a consistent perimeter shooter, and two promising games to end the summer won't quell all the worries.

The Lakers likely will try to bring him along slowly, giving James a chance to work out some of the kinks in the G League. But the Summer League fan favorite also will get his chances with the big club, and one of the NBA's most historic franchises knows the buzz James will generate when he gets called up.

No father-and-son duo has ever taken the court at the same time for an NBA game, and it's rare for any major North American sport.

Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey Jr. shared the same Major League Baseball field in 1990 and 1991 with the Seattle Mariners. In the 1970s and '80s, hockey legend Gordie Howe played with sons Marty and Mark with the WHA's Houston Aeros and the NHL's Hartford Whalers.

The fact the James family will join that list is something it won't take for granted after Bronny's health scare last summer. He went into cardiac arrest during a workout at the University of Southern California. James underwent surgery to fix what was diagnosed as a congenital heart defect, causing him to miss the beginning of the Trojans' season.

He averaged 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.1 assists in his one college season, opting to declare for the NBA draft rather than return to USC.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Bronny James looks on during an NBA summer league basketball game against the Miami Heat in San Francisco on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

Joe 'Jellybean' Bryant, the father of Kobe Bryant, dies at 69

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, the father of the late Basketball Hall of Famer Kobe Bryant, has died, his alma mater announced Tuesday.

Bryant, who spent eight seasons in the NBA with three different franchises, was 69. The Philadelphia Inquirer, citing La Salle coach Fran Dunphy, reported that Joe Bryant recently had a massive stroke.

"We are saddened to announce the passing of La Salle basketball great Joe Bryant," the school said in a news release. "Joe played for the Explorers from 1973-75 and was a member of our coaching staff from 1993-96. He was a beloved member of the Explorer family and will be dearly missed."

Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others died in a helicopter crash in January 2020 in Calabasas, California, as the group was making its way to a basketball tournament. Joe and Pam Bryant, who were married for nearly a half-century, had a sometimes frosty relationship with Kobe, but they were in the front row for the memorial service in Los Angeles about a month after Kobe and Gianna died.

"Sending our condolences upon hearing the news of my father in law's passing," Vanessa Bryant, Kobe's widow, posted Tuesday on her Instagram story. "We hoped things would've been different. Although the times we spent together were few, he was always sweet and nice to be around. Kobe loved him very much."

Joe Bryant was the No. 14 pick by Golden State in the 1975 draft, and the Warriors wound up selling his rights to Philadelphia before the start of his rookie season. He played four years for the 76ers, three for the San Diego Clippers and one for the Houston Rockets, averaging 8.7 points in 606 games.

From there, he embarked on an international career, with stops in France and Italy. The years in Italy shaped Kobe Bryant; it was there that he started to truly develop a love for basketball as well as becoming fluent in Italian. The family moved back to the Philadelphia area around the time that Kobe Bryant was 13, he became a high school star and was drafted four years later.

"I'm deeply saddened by the passing of Joe 'Jellybean' Bryant and join the basketball community in mourning a true Philly hoops legend," said Detroit Pistons vice chairman Arn Tellem, Kobe Bryant's former agent. "Our friendship opened the door for me to represent Kobe as he entered the NBA, a memory I'll always cherish. Joe was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, whose warmth touched everyone he met."

Joe Bryant had a number of coaching stints, including for teams in Italy, Japan and Thailand, as well as stints with the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks—meaning he was coaching in the same city as his son was playing for a number of years.

NBA BRIEFS

Jazz waive Westbrook as expected to clear his departure, likely for the Nuggets

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Utah Jazz waived point guard Russell Westbrook on Saturday, creating the opportunity for him to potentially join the Denver Nuggets. Utah acquired Westbrook from the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday in a sign-and-trade deal for point guard Kris Dunn. The Jazz made the move with the anticipation they would buy out Westbrook's contract so he could sign with the Nuggets. The Nuggets are in need of guard depth after parting with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Reggie Jackson earlier this month. ESPN reported Denver was Westbrook's expected destination. Utah got the right to swap second-round draft picks in 2030, the draft rights to center Balsa Koprivica and cash. The 35-year-old Westbrook averaged a career-low 11.1 points per game while mostly coming off the bench last season for the Clippers. They were bounced by Dallas in the first round of the playoffs.

Bucks sign former Toronto Raptors guard Gary Trent Jr.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Gary Trent Jr. has left the Toronto Raptors to join the Milwaukee Bucks' backcourt. The Bucks announced the signing of the 6-foot-5 guard on Saturday. Trent averaged 13.7 points, 2.6 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 71 games with the Raptors last season. He shot 42.6% from the floor and 39.3% from 3-point range. In 20 games after the All-Star break, Trent averaged 19.1 points. Trent has career averages of 14.3 points, 2.4 rebounds and 1.5 assists with the Portland Trail Blazers (2018-21) and Raptors (2021-24). This move reunites Trent with former Trail Blazers teammate Damian Lillard. The addition of Trent represents the latest signing for the Bucks, who also added 6-6 forward Taurean Prince and 6-5 guard Delon Wright. Prince spent last season with the Los Angeles Lakers, while Wright was with the Washington Wizards and Miami Heat.

Hauser agrees to four-year, $45M extension with Celtics

The Boston Celtics locked up another member of their championship core on Sunday, agreeing to a four-year, $45 million extension with Sam Hauser, a person with knowledge of the details said. Hauser's 197 3-pointers were second on the Celtics behind only Jayson Tatum, and now he has joined his All-Star teammate and guard Derrick White in agreeing to extensions this summer. Hauser will earn $2 million next season before his extension begins in the 2025-26 season. The person confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it had not been announced. It was first reported by ESPN. Hauser went from undrafted out of Virginia in 2021 to a key contributor for the Celtics. He appeared in 79 games last season, starting 13, and averaged a career-best 9.0 points. Hauser was 11th in the NBA in 3-point percentage at 42.4% and his 42.2% mark for his career is tops in Celtics history among players with at least 250 made 3-pointers. The 6-foot-8 forward made 10 3-pointers in just under 23 minutes of a March 17 victory over Washington, the fewest minutes played in NBA history in a game with 10 or more 3s. ***(AP)***

Mongolia, Guam join NMI in 3 Nations Cup

The Northern Mariana Islands Sports Association continues its busy summer schedule, as it hosts the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup, starting this Tuesday, July 23, at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

After hosting Shonan Bellmare of Japan, Tuloy Football Club of the Philippines, and the Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong at the NMISTC for their respective training camps and friendly matches, this time the NMIFA will welcome the Mongolian Women's National Team and the Guam Women' National Team for a double round-robin tournament this week. Mongolia's 25-player and official delegation is scheduled to arrive early Monday morning, while Guam, which is also represented by 25 delegates, is slated to touch down at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport the same day.

The visiting teams' arrival is in time with the opening match scheduled for July 23 at 6pm where the NMI Women's National Team gets the first chance to challenge Mongolia. Mongolia will play back-to-back games early in the week, as it takes on Guam in the July 24 match, also set for 6pm. Meanwhile, the long-time rivalry between the NMI and Guam will be featured in the July 25 match at 6pm. Participating teams will challenge each other twice with the squad with the most points (based on win-draw-loss standings) winning the Three Nations Cup.

"We are excited to welcome Mongolia to our islands for the first time, as their players showcase their skills against our players and in front of our growing local soccer community. We would like to thank the leadership of the Mongolian Football Federation, under president Bold Molomjamts, for this partnership and for bringing their team to the NMI," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

"Guam has been NMI's soccer's supporter since Day 1 and every time we would like to arrange a tournament or even just a training/friendly match, the Guam Football Association is always there for us. More than our storied Marianas rivalry, we valued our strong partnership with GFA that has allowed to bring where NMI soccer is at now," the NMIFA president added.

Meanwhile, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said events like the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup and hosting training camp/matches for Shonan Bellmare, Tuloy FC, and Chelsea, are part of the association's continued efforts in developing the sports, providing opportunities to local players and officials, and engaging and showing spectators different levels and styles of plays.

Zapanta also rallied the community to watch this week's matches and show our warm hafa adai and tirow welcome to the visiting teams, while supporting the NMI Women's National Team. He added that after this week's competition, the NMIFA will also host the Marianas Cup with the NMI's Men's National Team facing Guam's Men's National Team on Aug. 3 and 4.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI, left, and Guam players in action during the Marianas Cup 2023. The rival teams will cross paths anew and this time they will also be battling the Mongolian Women's National Team as the three squads play in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup, starting today, July 23, at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

The match schedule for the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup are as follows:

- June 23: NMI vs. Mongolia 6pm
- June 24: Mongolia vs. Guam 6pm
- June 25: NMI vs. Guam 6pm
- June 26: Mongolia vs. NMI 6pm
- June 27: Guam vs. Mongolia 6pm
- June 28: Guam vs. NMI 6pm *(PR)*

DIAZ

From page 16

but fell short in the last five seconds of his match after he said he slid backwards and had an awkward fall on his left ankle.

Both Diaz and Floyd's bracket had only a gold and silver award as it had only 10 competitors or less. At 11 competitors or more, there is a bronze medal—according to the World Karate Organization ruling.

Banez, in the senior black belt division, also lost. Even with that, he said that his dream of competing internationally has come true and that the team did well in their first ever international competition. "It is way over what we expected competing internationally. Having a trophy to bring back to our island of Saipan, we are so very proud to present the success to the community."

The 68-year-old added, "It is very challenging but we stuck to what we practiced—stayed with the plan and determination to win and bring back smiles." Also, he said, hopefully it gets the youth's interest to compete in future events. "We are coming back to Saipan to share what we experienced…" he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Silver medalist in the yellow belt senior rookie division, Jerry Diaz, right, poses with his awards and sensei and black belt Danny Banez of the CNMI Martial Arts Academy of Self-Defense-Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo during the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championship that was held from July 20 to 21 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

For Diaz, he said that the competition was exhilarating. He said, "I had to give every ounce of ability and will to overcome the challenge."

Placing silver in his division, he said, "getting to [the] finals and winning silver in [a] close decision was rewarding and couldn't have envisioned an outcome to inspire our youth and community. To compete and win at the highest level of karate competition against 24 other countries is an honor."

He said that the event was world class and very organized as over 3,700 athletes competed in front of 10,000 people in attendance.

He added that he is looking forward to bringing back their experience and knowledge to the CNMI dojo, youth, and the community, to "share that we can compete and win at the highest level of karate martial arts competition. Especially in the motherland of karate—Japan."

Diaz then thanked their sensei, Banez, for teaching and preparing them, his training partner, Floyd, for sharpening and growing together, and their coach, Atalig, for getting their mindset ready. He also thanked Shinkyokushinkai Guam Dojo sensei Chris Biolchino for taking the CNMI dojo under his.

For 47-year-old Floyd, he said, "The competition was fierce. Months of training is condensed down to 60 seconds. One minute is all you have to apply your skills and techniques against your opponent."

The air traffic controller at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport added, "The number of countries participating in the event and the sheer number of spectators was breathtaking. Representing the CNMI is a proud and humbling experience, just to have Saipan and Guam bring back trophies after our inaugural entry shows that we can compete with the best on a worldwide level."

Sponsors of Diaz were May Cabrera of 670 Rocksteady Shop, Roderick Zandueta, Hagu Real, Joereb Diaz, Liza Taylor, Lili from Saipan Fresh Market, Cecille Camama, Amy Kim and family, Esther Sablan and family, Sheryl Vilaga, Jim Arenovski and Island Training Solutions, Arlene Palpallatoc-Domingo and family, Michelle Igisomar and family, Yaong Corporation, Marianas Variety, Shuli Yu, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters.

Sponsors of the team were BFSM Bank, Joeten Superstore, MMC and Marianas Security, Mobil Tanapag Station, Soudelor Construction, The Water Co., and Kautz Glass. It was in partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Office and Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho.

BILLIE

From page 16

Association competition.

The youthful Pangelinan said the transition from Power Puff Girls Class to the Women's Class has had its challenges and that was pretty evident in losing to Alvarez in Heat 1 last Sunday.

"My main goal was trying to stay up because if I fall, the bike gets heavier when it's all muddy and since I am on a bigger bike, I unfortunately can't reach the ground, but with that being said, I fell twice on the first heat."

She then dedicated her win to her parents and brothers for their continuous support and hard work in supporting her motocross hobby. Pangelinan also extended her kudos to her many sponsors, namely IT&E, Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value, 670 Rocksteady, TurnKey Solutions, Ericco Racing Team, Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan) for the tent donation, and her coach Ellery Cruz.

In the Power Puff Girls Class, Pangelinan's former rival, Miyako Celis, took the plum with a perfect ride for 50 points.

Kesiil Camacho was second with 42 points, while Hiromi Sasamoto as third with 22 points.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

VELASCO

From page 16

the line because last year I finished third. Just thankful that everyone finished safe."

McKagan raced into first place with a sub 1-hour time of 59:42. Second was Kathy Ruszala at 1:05:44, and third was Rebecca Wiggins just a couple minutes later with 1:07:49.

McKagan said of the race, "The weather wasn't good. Sometimes it rained hard during the race. The road was slippery, so we all needed to be careful when cornering or going downhill. The road was wet, so when I was right behind a biker's tail, I got splashed from a tire and couldn't open my mouth."

The hardest part of the course, she said, was right before the finish line at Suicide Cliff. "The strong wind pushed me sideways and I had to get off my bike to avoid crashing. I am thankful to Leilani Ruszala who was babysitting my daughter at [the] finish line."

In the same long course, the age group division results are as follows:

Renren Gaviola was first in the below 40 age group at 52:48, while second was Reno Academia at 1:03:00.

Macel Nicavera topped the 40-44 age group with a time of 52:40, and Lo Manalo was second just six seconds later at 52:46.

In the 45-49 age group, Elmer Esdrelon was first at 53:54, and second was Ferdz Licayan at 55:16.

Enrique Suba biked into first place of the 50-54 age group at 55:41, while Rusty Valino was second at 56:38.

In the 55-59 age group, Bernard Laborce was first at 58:32; second was Rolly Quihon at 1:05:38; and third was Andrew Estepa with 1:09.50.

And in the 60+ category, Cesar Fortaleza was first at 54:35. Second was Ponce Corotan with 58:37, and third was Greg Clark at 1:11:59.

Results of the MTB Short Course, MTB Long Course, and Road Bike Short Course will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	60	39	.606	–
New York	59	42	.584	2
Boston	53	45	.541	6½
Tampa Bay	50	49	.505	10
Toronto	45	54	.455	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	59	39	.602	–
Minnesota	54	44	.551	5
Kansas City	55	45	.550	5
Detroit	49	51	.490	11
Chicago	27	74	.267	33½
West Division				
Seattle	53	48	.525	–
Houston	52	47	.525	–
Texas	47	52	.475	5
Los Angeles	42	57	.424	10
Oakland	39	62	.386	14

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	63	36	.636	–
Atlanta	54	44	.551	8½
New York	50	48	.510	12½
Washington	47	53	.470	16½
Miami	35	64	.354	28
Central Division				
Milwaukee	57	42	.576	–
St. Louis	52	47	.525	5
Pittsburgh	50	49	.505	7
Chicago	48	53	.475	10
Cincinnati	47	53	.470	10½
West Division				
Los Angeles	59	41	.590	–
San Diego	52	50	.510	8
Arizona	51	49	.510	8
San Francisco	48	52	.480	11
Colorado	36	64	.360	23

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King, 2 relievers toss 2-hitter as Padres edge Guardians
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Mongolia, Guam join NMI in 3 Nations Cup
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Diaz bags silver in Japan's karate tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Jerry Diaz bagged a silver medal in the debut of the CNMI in international karate competitions during the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championship that was held from July 20 to 21 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

The championship was participated by 24 countries and over 3,700 martial artists in the motherland of karate.

Diaz was in the yellow belt senior rookie division and almost bagged gold, but fell in overtime against his Japanese opponent in the finals.

The 43-year-old gave it his all in the first 60 seconds. In overtime, he came up short in the last 15 seconds. In the match, he had two flags from the judges, while his opponent had zero. But in overtime, he had zero flags, while his opponent had five.

For karate competitions that are made up of 60 seconds, even if you are leading in the first 30 seconds, but fall short in the last five seconds, the judges will hand the win to the more strategic and aggressive athlete.

With Diaz in the competition for the CNMI delegation were Spencer Floyd and Danny Banez, sensei of the CNMI Martial Arts Academy of Self-Defense-Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo. They were coached by Eric Atalig.

They were part of Team Marianas with eight Guam martial artists. For Guam, Yuta Camacho, in the rookie junior high school division, bagged a bronze medal.

For Floyd, he almost made it to the medal round in the yellow belt senior rookie division, and was one win away,

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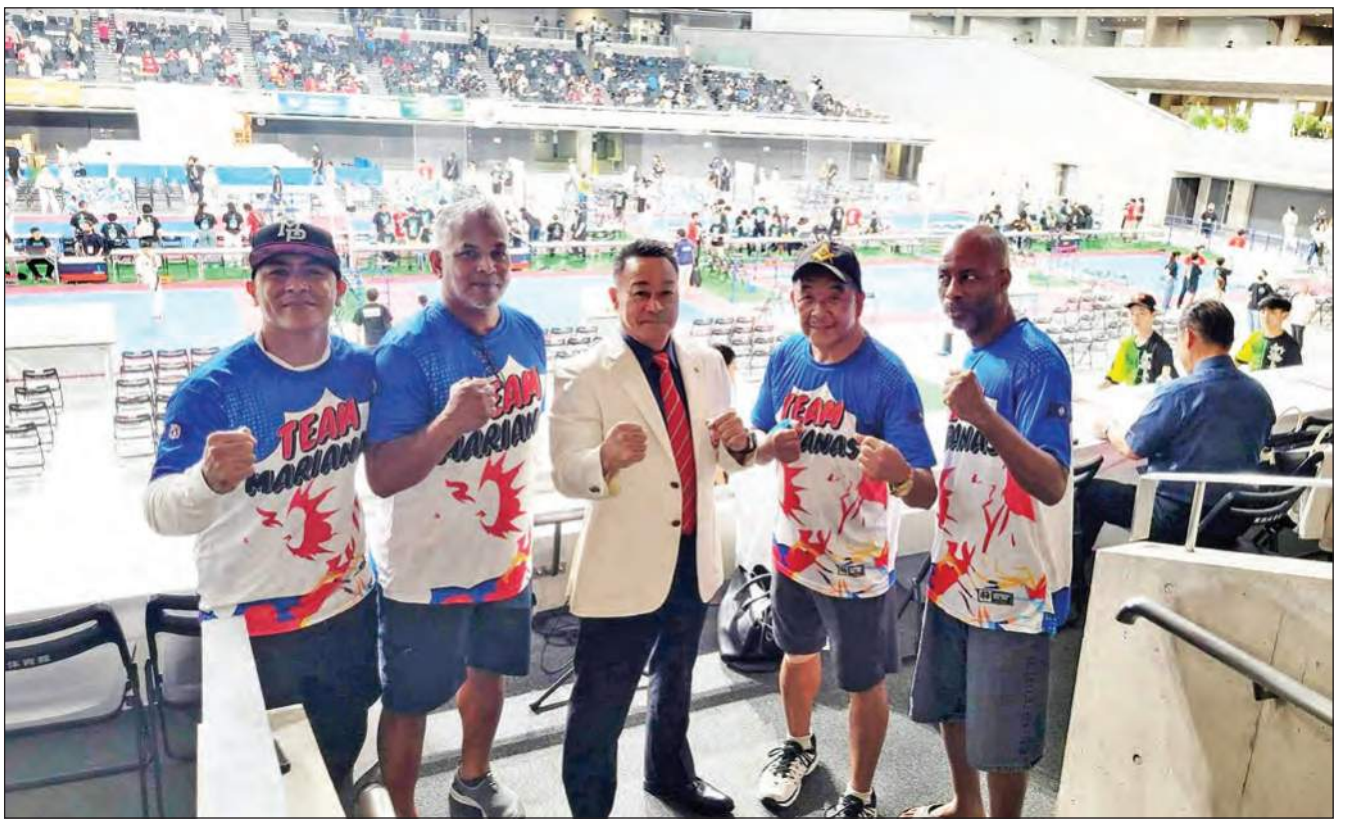

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's karate team with Jerry Diaz, left, coach Eric Atalig, second left, sensei Danny Banez, second right, and Spencer Floyd, pose with Shihan Kenji, Midori Shinkyokushinkai president, center during the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championship that was held from July 20 to 21 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Billie dials in another win in Women's Class

MIA GUERRERO

Billie Inabo Pangelinan leads the Women's Class in last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Billie Inabo Pangelinan now has two back-to-back wins in the Women's Class after following up her victory in June by topping last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

The 15-year-old Saipan Southern High School student nipped runner-up Mari Alvarez in the division after both lady riders finished with 47 points. Pangelinan, however, took the checkered flag after winning the second heat. Sheanna Pangelinan came in third with 40 points.

"The course during the first heat was really muddy and slippery. It rained all morning and once the races begun, the track had lots of puddles and mud everywhere! Before the second heat, the track was tacky and the turns were perfect. In my opinion that was the best the track has been and it was just so much fun!" said Billie, who earlier in the season won the February and March editions of the Marianas Racing

See BILLIE on Page 15

Velasco, McKagan tops 4th Race for a Cause

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top 3 overall men's winners of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race pose for a group photo last Sunday at Marpi. From left, second place J.R. Barrios, first place Arvin Velasco, and third place Paolo Pepito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top 3 overall women's winners, with first place Kimiko McKagan, center, of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race pose for a group photo last Sunday at Marpi. To McKagan's right is second place Kathy Ruszala, while to her left is third place Rebecca Wiggins.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Heavy rains did not damper 58 participants that tackled the roads of the wild north, with Arvin Velasco and Kimiko McKagan biking into the finish line as the top bikers of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race last Sunday in Marpi.

Velasco was first place in the men's division of the Road Bike Long Course from the former Mariana Resort & Spa to Banzai Cliff, La Fiesta, Bird Island, Suicide Cliff, and back, while McKagan was first in the women's division of the same course.

Velasco clocked in at 49:31, followed by second place Jay-Ar Barrios at 50:42. Third place by a few seconds was Paolo Pepito at 40:55.

In the inaugural Race for a Cause last 2021, Velasco, who was 28 years old then, won his first ever victory of any bike race he's joined after he topped the road bike and MTB divisions.

He said of this year's race, "The race was fun, but the weather was bad, especially in the beginning as it rained before the race started and it poured hard again after we started. The rain stopped toward the middle of the race but the road was already wet and very slippery so everyone was really careful especially going downhill."

With his win, the 31-year-old dialysis technician at the Commonwealth Health Center said, "Of course I'm very happy to be the first to cross

See VELASCO on Page 15